

RECOVERED LOST ARTEFACTS

This working paper seeks to explore the key events featured in contemporary newspapers and government documents that were crucial to the history of the North Melbourne Football Club, as determined through the fact-checking of reported accounts.

A working paper by John Guest, FCDA

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OVERVIEW

This book aims to enhance readers' knowledge of the early history of the North Melbourne Football Club ("FC").¹ It *may* further add to the club's official foundational history, highlighting North's status as one of the oldest elite Australian Football (AFL) clubs and among the longest-standing clubs in any football code globally.

Recent studies of contemporary newspaper articles and government documents have uncovered valuable insights into the early years of club at Graham's Paddock, Hotham Hill, where its cricket and football divisions functioned until the end of the 1859 football season.

In 1858, the club's founders successfully petitioned the Melbourne City Council for a facility in Royal Park, North Melbourne, which has left a lasting legacy, with remnants preserved by the Council.

This foundation allowed the author to trace the North Melbourne club's early history, noting that the football branch remained at Royal Park from 1860 until 1882, while the cricket team relocated to Street in 1868. They were then followed by the football club in 1882 in wake of a 1879 legal decision.

In 1879 the court in Victoria ruled the football branch had control over the cricket branch, underscoring the football club's administrative authority within the North Melbourne Club, and establishing that both branches, under this legal decision, had a legal foundation date no later than November 22, 1855.²

This thematic research³ highlights also the contributions of lesser-known individuals frequently neglected in the history of football and the early days of the North Melbourne Football Club. Among those recently discovered are important figures, including the author's ancestors, who significantly influenced North during its formative years.

This new evidence supports the findings from the Guest family archives, and strengthens the oral history concerning the three Guest brothers—Will, Jack and Archie—sons of John Kidd (1831-1871), an early member and player for North Melbourne. John was active in the club from 1858 to 1870/71, while his sons played for North from 1874 to 1888. Archie, the youngest of John and Matilda Guest (née Connolly)'s three sons, is the father of Jack Guest (1921-1987), the author's father.⁴

¹ "Football Club" is also abbreviated within this book as "FC."

² NMCC's call for new players with games played each Saturday afternoon in Graham's Paddock, Hotham Hill. Advertised in the Argus Newspaper, Melbourne, Victoria, Thursday 22nd November 1855, Page 8, Advertising.

³ The author used thematic analysis method to learn more about the early history of the North Melbourne football club and Australian rules. The method emphasises identifying, analysing and interpreting patterns of meaning (or "themes") within qualitative data - such as newspaper, documents and interviews/discussions (Professor Virginia Braun [Ginny] and Associate Professor Victoria Clarke, "Thematic Analysis," University of Auckland, New Zealand. <https://www.thematicanalysis.net/>).

⁴ Guest patrilineal record thread, ascending from the author born 1960 to his great grandfather John Kidd Guest 1831-1871 Victorian Registration of Birth, Deaths, and Marriages (VRBDM): Registration Numbers - 79577/1960; Registration Number: 29301/1921; Registration Number: 3564/1866; and for grand uncles' paternity, Registration Number: 22060/1862; and Registration Number: 6002/1860.

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IN THE BEGINNING

The North Melbourne Club from 1855

This book serves as a companion to Gerard Dowling's insightful work from 1972, which was updated in 1997. It includes new updates that clarify details about significant events, providing accurate timestamps based on recently discovered contemporary accounts from newspapers and government documents.

The findings reveal that the North Melbourne Football Club was operationalised as early as the winter of 1856 and operated as a football branch of the North Melbourne Cricket Club before 1858.

This book highlights the Irish influence on football in the Australian Colony of Melbourne, where the sport was played as early as 1816. It provides key factual details about the founding of the North Melbourne Football Club through its cricket club, which the football club gained legal recognition in 1879 of its existence as the senior branch of the North Melbourne club with provenance taking the club's foundation back to at least November 22, 1855.

The exploration covers North's football history during the crucial years from 1856 to 1888, revealing that the club participated in round robin scratch matches at Graham's Paddock. This paddock, named after James Graham, who lived nearby from 1836,^{5 6 7} is located at the foot of the Benevolent Society, and is noted for its historical significance. James Graham, was a wealthy merchant and influential man.^{8 9 10 11 12} He is pictured below:



When Dr. Martin died his settled the entire Banyule Homestead property in Heidelberg on Minnie, James Graham's daughter.”¹³

⁵ Westgarth, W, 1888, pp 26-27, Personal Recollections of Early Melbourne and Victoria.

⁶ Notable People of Collingwood, Notables Database, James Graham 1819-1898, Merchant, Early Settler & Member of Parliament.

⁷ Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 50, p 60, p188, Pioneer Merchant: The Letters of James Graham, 1839-54.

⁸ Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 187, p188, p 190.

⁹ Hayes, S, PhD, 2014, p4, pp12-15, p18 “Good Taste, Fashion, Luxury: A Genteel Melbourne Family and Their Rubbish,” Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology, Volume 5, Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology.

¹⁰ Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 91, 147, 150.

¹¹ Genealogical Society of Victoria 1970, Port Phillip Pioneer Pedigrees: No. 2 – the Martin Family of Banyule and Viewbank, Heidelberg. Ancestor, 8, (5): 105–108.

¹² Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 101, p 104, p106, p190.

¹³ Ibid, Hayes, S, PhD, 2014, p12-15, p18.

James Graham's when he lived on the corner of Bourke and Russell Streets Melbourne from 1836-1847 made frequent pedestrian visits up and down well-worn track which was Victoria Street to the top of Hotham Hill at the west head of Errol Street to which Victoria Street terminated.

His visitation was partly to speak to occasional farmers to tell them to move their cattle from Donaldson's Paddock - and also taking time frequently to gaze over Saltwater and its junction with Moonee Ponds Creek towards Geelong which Graham enjoyed the wonderful view – was told by friend William Wentworth.¹⁴

The naming of Graham's Paddock has all but disappeared from history of North Melbourne and its Cricket and football club, North Melbourne. It is the club's first- and second-generation members who could recall their first home ground Graham's Paddock, located at the foot of the Benevolent Asylum and the head of the west end of Errol Street. This history of the North Melbourne Club playing in Graham's Paddock was found in an obscure reference within a 1933 article written by a writer with the alias "F.M."¹⁵

Identified in the same article is the club's founding father, Mr. F. T. Gell.¹⁶ Gell, along with the prominent ex-British men of North Melbourne founded the club and successfully lobbied the Melbourne City council to support construction of a ground in Royal Park to be used by North's two sporting branches, cricket and football.

Social & political context of the Irish playing football for the North Melbourne club

For most of the nineteenth century the inner municipality of Hotham (North and West Melbourne) was the most Irish locality.¹⁷ There were common misconceptions about concerns of the rise of Irish Fenianism—a movement advocating for Irish independence through armed means—were growing in Melbourne.¹⁸

Whilst it is true many of the Irish in Melbourne willed independents and re-unification of the island state, they were more appreciative of the opportunities Australia begged.¹⁹

Expert socio-political historians have come to understand that “drunken paddy stories” at their roots were examples of prejudice in Australia against the Irish.^{20 21} Overlooked in newspapers was the Irish cross-community cohesion and playing of football, cricket and hurley together in places like Graham's paddock in the mid to late 1850s and then Royal Park from 1860.

¹⁴ Graham J & Graham S, 1985, Pioneer Merchant: The Letters of James Graham, 1839-54.

¹⁵ Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2, The Age, Saturday 13th May 1933, page 18.

¹⁶ Geographical location, social network, and political standing antecedents suggest Mr. F.T. Gell and Mr. James Graham were acquainted.

¹⁷ Brown, R, 2015, Australia and Irish settlement: after the Famine, History Zone.

¹⁸ FITZROY FOOTBALL TEAM, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 17th August 1895, Page 27.

¹⁹ ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 26th March 1856, Page 2.

²⁰ Pádraig Collins, 2015, “When it comes to smearing the Irish, Australia is the world's serial offender,” The Guardian, Thursday 4th June 2015.

²¹ The author first hand witnessed at the MCG the racist chant, “*you're going home in the back of a paddy van,*” – undoubtedly a drunken paddy slur popular among sports fans up until the end of the 1980s, with the chant latter adjusted in the 1990s to “*you're going home in the back of a Divy van.*”

In North Melbourne, a lesser-known story reveals that the Irish community, a prominent group in the area, largely moved beyond their religious and political disputes. They accepted and celebrated various mixed marriages, including elopements from Ireland. These divisions faded away, giving way to a focus on sports and community connections in their new home. Most Irish immigrants who arrived in North Melbourne, like those greater Melbourne and Adelaide from the 1850s had assisted passages, which meant they had financial resources upon their arrival.^{22 23 24 25 26 27}

They joined the ranks of the newly formed North Melbourne club without concern for any conflicts arising among members of Anglo-Irish, Catholic Irish, or mixed religious and ethnic backgrounds.^{28 29 30}

It was never reported, but it appears that harmony existed. St. Mary's Church of England in Hotham, for instance, had a congregation that was not predominantly English but rather Anglo-Irish, and they welcomed indigenous Irish and Roman Catholic students into their school as early as 1853 when it opened. Additionally, St. Mary's served as the venue for the North Melbourne Football Club's committee meetings starting in 1869, previously held in the homes of Hotham residents, predominantly Anglo-Irish and Indigenous Irish, along with progressive English and Scottish expatriates.



²² Nicholls, P, 2017, The Melbourne Irish in “The Murky Origins of Australia’s Football Codes.”

²³ Irish Playing Football in South Australia, South Australian History Hub, South Australian Government, <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/irish-in-south-australia/#tab-content>.

²⁴ The Irish in South Australia, South Australian History Hub, South Australian Government, <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/irish-in-south-australia/#tab-content>.

²⁵ McCarthy, D, 2011, “The Orange Sash and the Clash of the Ash - The Munster Boys of Melbourne, 12th July 1843-44,” Irish Central, July 11th 2011.

²⁶ Finn, E., 1888, The Chronicles of Early Melbourne, 1835 to 1852: Historical, Anecdotal and Personal, by “Garryowen” Centennial ed., Melbourne: Fergusson and Mitchell, pages 677, 747-748.

²⁷ SEPARATION REJOICINGS, FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 19th November 1850, Page 1.

²⁸ C.f., Ibid, Dunstan, D, 1979, pp. 56-60.

²⁹ Harvey, A., 2005, p58, Football, The First One Hundred Years: The Untold Story, Routledge, London.

³⁰ According to the accepted wisdom, the refined football games created by English public schools in the 1860s subsequently became the sports of the masses. Harvey’s (2005), “Football, The First Hundred Years” provides a revisionist history of the game, challenging previously widely-accepted beliefs. Author and researcher, historian Harvey (2005), argues that established football history does not correspond with the facts. Football, as played by the ‘masses’ prior to the adoption of the public-school codes is almost always portrayed as wild and barbaric. He concluded that this view may require considerable modification.

The English community in Melbourne was worried about an unfounded increase in Irish Fenian uprising right on their doorstep in North Melbourne.^{31 32}

It appeared that all the residents were indigenous Irish Catholics, with many eager for revolution in their newly adopted homeland. The founding English and Scottish members of the North Melbourne Cricket and Football Club, established in 1856, abandoned the club by 1860,³³ fearing it would be overtaken by the Irish.

However, the untold story of the Victorian Irish members, who were the generation to join the club, is one of tolerance and harmony, as they actively sought to leave behind indifference from Ireland for the love of sport and their new home.³⁴

The Irish of North Melbourne³⁵

“Were less passionate about the troubles of the Old World they had left behind. Coming a generation after the Famine, those who came to Australia were working class and some even lower middle class rather than the utterly destitute of the previous generation. Their memories of Ireland were, as a consequence, less bitter about England than those who had left earlier for the US. Moreover, the Irish here lived under British rule, and so were less likely to develop an anti-British worldview than those in the independent United States. These factors combined to lead the Australian Irish to be more temperate in their subsequent political affiliations, and more moderate than Dr Mannix,³⁶ which was to cause problems for him – and for them – in Melbourne.”

Those of mixed faith of Catholic & Anglo- Irish stock³⁷

“One result of 50% of Irish women marrying out during the goldfields decade was that the existence of many Irish Catholic families since has been obscured by a non-Irish surname. My wife Ann’s family is an example. A Presbyterian Scot named George Livingston from the Scots highlands and islands came to the Maldon goldfields in the 1850s. In 1860 in Castlemaine, he married Brigid O’Donnell – after that virtually all subsequent people in this enormous family, which moved to North Melbourne from the country, were Irish Catholics, but hidden by the Scots surname.

³¹ Pádraig Collins, 2015, “When it comes to smearing the Irish, Australia is the world's serial offender,” The Guardian, Thursday 4th June 2015.

³² Gatt, F, PhD, 2022, “The Lived Experience of Urbanisation in Hotham/North Melbourne, 1852–1905, Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Deakin University, November 2022 – pp 174, 175, 214, 239.

³³ Hotham History Project (HHP), Royal Historical Society of Victoria, (RHSV), North Melbourne Cricket Club, <https://www.hothamhistory.org.au/the-early-history-of-north-melbourne/>.

³⁴ Ibid, McCarthy, D, 2011.

³⁵ Morgan P, 2013, “The Melbourne Irish,” - A talk given at the Irish Australian seminar at Newman College, University of Melbourne, on 26th March 2013 by Patrick Morgan [How the Melbourne Irish differ from the American Irish and Other Peculiarities (Sourced from Tinteán Editorial Team).

³⁶ James Griffin, 'Mannix, Daniel (1864–1963)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mannix-daniel-7478/text13033>, published first in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 22 October, 2022.

This article was published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 10, (Melbourne University Press), 1986.

³⁷ Ibid Morgan P, 2013.

Many families associated with the place and club North Melbourne, were formed by either Anglo-Irish or Catholic families, with Anglo-Irish paternal families often having one or more Catholic or indigenous Irish matriarchs. A prime example of this can be seen in the North Melbourne club memberships of the first-generation families: Guest, White, and Bracken.³⁸
 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Templemore seeds sown early in Graham's Paddock

The rich sporting and cultural heritage of cricket and football in the small village of Templemore, along with the experiences of the Guest, White, and Bracken families in Melbourne and at the North Melbourne Club, played a crucial role in the founding of the North Melbourne Cricket and Football Club at Graham's Paddock in 1858, provided they were willing to set aside old biases.

Their lived experiences, coupled with their acceptance of diverse perspectives and the advantages of their heritage, helped them navigate the often-volatile climate in Tipperary, shielding them from personal attacks during the civil unrest between 1738 and 1857 and fostering peaceful coexistence with their neighbours.

These invaluable personal qualities were the foundation that John Guest, James White senior, his son James White, and their friend James Bracken (b. 1831)—father of future North Melbourne footballers Lochie Bracken (1855-1910) and Billy Bracken (1857-1911)—invested in for the growth of the early North Melbourne Football Club.

This spirit of harmony enabled immigrant figures like John Guest, James White, and Joseph Bracken (b. 1816) of Albert Park, whose son and grandson also played for North, to establish a close-knit community around North, guiding the club from Graham's Paddock to its new ground in Royal Park. The Guest brothers Will, Jack, and Archie carried the culture forward along with their fellow members to Arden Street in 1882.

The direct descendants of the founding fathers were present when the football club re-joined the cricket club at Hotham Recreational Reserve – Arden Street - after the club's control was given to the football division by legal determination made in 1879.

However, much earlier the impact of Irish members on the early North Melbourne Football Club, following March 17, 1856, posed challenges for the British co-founders like Mr. F.T. Gell as they adjusted to the cultural changes brought about by the influx of Irish members and the departure of English founders before the club officially relocated to Royal Park.

³⁸ Marion's Passenger List 1851, Facsimile of hand written original [pre-transcribed and pre-typed original] for families Guest, Rudd, Bracken, White & Hodgkins of Templemore Tipperary, Ireland, pp3-6, p9, State Library of South Australia, State Records of South Australia, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

³⁹ Late of "Birrvue" Hanna-street, off York Street, South Melbourne – Father of Lochie and Billy Bracken.

⁴⁰ Ibid, Bracken, P, PhD, p73.

⁴¹ Some famous Templemore people, Templemore History, J.K. Bracken.

⁴² de Burca, M, 2004, pp 234-235, J.K. Bracken Centenary: A Reflection, Tipperary Historical Journal.

⁴³ Churchill's Secret Son – A Winston Churchill Documentary, Timeline - Public domain, You Tube.

⁴⁴ Churchill's Secret Son – A Winston Churchill Documentary, Timeline - Public domain, You Tube.

⁴⁵ Refer also Attachment I.

Ultimately, those committed to the traditional English sports ethos felt it necessary to depart from the club they established on November 22, 1855, as they struggled to adapt to the evolving circumstances heading into the 1859/60 season. This decision likely came before they could witness the benefits their successful efforts to secure a newly built cricket and football ground for the North Melbourne Club in Royal Park, which was set to be operational for the 1859/60 cricket season.⁴⁶

Fresh insight into the earliest style of football played by North

The origin of the term “Shinboner” and the associated shinboner spirit is difficult to determine. Anecdotally, it is said to have originated in 1934 from players working at a nearby meatworks, but recent evidence suggests it may instead be rooted in pre-GAA Templemore rules football that began in Grahams Paddock as early as 1858. The shinboner spirit embodies the club's resilience, particularly during the significant crisis of 1876/77.

Until 1866, North's playing style was influenced by the Templemore roots, more closely resembling Marn-Grook than Eton rules, distancing itself from the English folk traditions of shin-kicking and tripping associated with English folk football played in the northern part of England and Scotland more akin to soccer.⁴⁷ Understanding these nuances highlights the Irish irony of the term shin boners, which refers to the shin kicking and tripping practice in northern England that was eliminated from Irish football by 1847.

While North Melbourne players were less dynamic than their local Marn-Grook counterparts, they excelled in ball handling, long kicking, marking and running with purpose towards the goal, all within a more defined playing area. The Templemore style, first seen in Graham's Paddock, continued in Royal Park from winter 1860 and influenced the Victorian rules of 1866.

“Shinboners” – A local example of Irish verbal irony?

The style played by North mirrored aspects of pre-GAA Gaelic football rules, particularly from Templemore in East Munster, which also prohibited shin kicking. Dr Bracken 2023 further informs that the English soldiers for the Garrison team at Templemore often slid into opposing players to seize the ball, which contributed to the growing popularity of the English folk football game - a precursor to soccer that soldiers played in the 1830s and 1840s.

This resulted in a modified version of Irish folk football being played at the Garrison sports field in Templemore, promoting between military personnel and the local civilian community while prohibiting “shin-boning.” Bracken notes his independent research that “shin-kicking” was a combat sport in Ireland during 1830s and 1840s, with competitions surprisingly still occurring today.

The phrase “Shinboners” is undoubtedly an example of verbal irony, misunderstood as a figure of Irish speech and humour. When the club's founders to themselves as “shinboners,” they did not need to explain its meaning to Irish supporters in the North; they instinctively understood it to signify the opposite of its literal interpretation.

⁴⁶ Hotham History Project (HHP), Royal Historical Society of Victoria, (RHSV), North Melbourne Cricket Club, <https://www.hothamhistory.org.au/the-early-history-of-north-melbourne/>.

⁴⁷ Eton's school's archivist, states the that the first rules date from 1847.

While this explanation may be hard for some to grasp today, the author, informed his late father, Archie's son, Jack Guest (1862-1922),^{48 49 50 51} was certain the nickname "Shinboners" was a compliment to the first-generation North Melbourne players taking to the field at Royal Park in the early 1860s. In the author's opinion, the phrase "shin-boner" serves as a localised example of Irish verbal irony, reflecting their ability to pass the ball to an opponent while avoiding injury to the opponent's shins.

Irish clubs shun from Melbourne's early mainstream newspapers

A group of clubs primarily consisting of Victorian Irish members has scant reports of its existence as early as 1856, particularly with the North Melbourne Cricket Club's football branch forming around that time. These clubs were largely ignored by mainstream Melbourne newspapers that were overwhelmingly pro-England.

While there were occasional mentions of Irish football on St. Patrick's Day and advertisements for the cricket clubs' special meetings throughout the 1860s to establish football branches, wasn't until the 1870s that clubs like North, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), Footscray, and Williamstown gained more regular coverage.⁵²

The prevalence of clubs following the "Eton rules"^{53 54} exalted as "senior" clubs resulted in Irish Australian rules football clubs being categorised as "junior" and confined to competing among themselves.⁵⁵ A sub-group of Eton rules teams along the southern coast included St Kilda, Elsternwick (Coast Football),⁵⁶ and South Yarra Football Clubs. The University Football Club was initially on Madeline Street in North Melbourne, near central Melbourne. Richmond and Melbourne Football Clubs were located side by side in Richmond Paddock from 1859 onwards.^{57 58 59 60}

St Kilda stood out from this group, resembling the folk football style of northern England and Scotland. In 1859, they made a decision to reject the "Melbourne rules," which banned shin kicking and tripping. A matter not fully resolved until 1873.

⁴⁸ The Argus Newspaper published on Wednesday 8th April 1936, Page 1.

⁴⁹ Jack Guest Player Profile, Carlton & Fitzroy Football Clubs, Blueseum, Carlton Football Club Online Heritage site.

⁵⁰ Percy Taylor; "Fitzroy Will Be Better Team – Should Reach the Four, The Argus Newspaper, Melbourne Victoria, 3rd April, 1938, p22.

⁵¹ The Argus Newspaper, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 16th April, 1938, page 21, "League Teams for Today."

⁵² Refer also Ibid, Arthur, D., 2019, pp17-18 for lack of newspaper coverage.

⁵³ The influence of football from Eton School and Rugby in England, beginning in 1847, reached Melbourne through Tom Wills' visit to Eton, and these rules were reflected in the Melbourne Football Club's 1859 regulations.

⁵⁴ Eton's school's archivist, states the that the first rules date from 1847.

⁵⁵ Ibid, The Yorker, Journal of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library, Issue 39, Autumn 2009, page 3.

⁵⁶ FOOTBALL, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th June 1859, Page 3.

⁵⁷ The early adopter clubs Melbourne, Scotch College, Melbourne Grammar (Church of England), University and South Yarra all gained notoriety in the contemporary newspapers for the fair play.

⁵⁸ Other England aligned membership clubs reluctant found reluctant for some time to abandon the northern England folk football style, which resembled soccer - St Kilda and possibly Albert Park, along with the Coast Football Club in Elsternwick, were all hesitant.

⁵⁹ St Kilda strongly preferred to maintain the northern England folk football style more akin to soccer, which involved kicking the ball from the ground and more tolerant of tripping and hacking.

⁶⁰ Taylor, M, 2013 [2008], The Association Game: A History of British Football. Routledge.

Mainstream newspapers often portrayed these Irish clubs – North Melbourne in particular - as rowdy and unpredictable, in stark contrast to the celebratory depiction of behaviour among Eton rules spectators. The North Melbourne Football Club exemplifies a Victorian Irish Australian rules football club that remained overlooked until it adopted the Victorian rules.

From 1858 to 1866, their style of play was reminiscent of the pre-GAA Templemore Irish football rules, incorporating elements from 1859 Melbourne rules while differing significantly from the playing style of the Eton clubs along the Yarra River.

By the end of the period 1858-1866, North Melbourne's preferred football style gained recognition, despite mainstream media largely ignoring it. This is highlighted by North Melbourne delegate Mr. John McIndoe's invitation to participate in discussions for the new 1866 Victorian rules, which likely reflected the Templemore rules style.

Lochie Bracken of the Albert Park Club also recognised the advantages of the Templemore rules, which included some shared yet simplified dynamic features with the Marn-Grook game, such as ball handling, running while bouncing, and accurate kicking, later in the 1866 "Victorian Rules."

It can be inferred that McIndoe and Bracken agreed on most proposed rules, having known each other through their shared connections with the Guest and Whites families of North Melbourne, who were affiliated with the ex-Templemore and the North Melbourne Football and Cricket clubs.

The North Melbourne Football Club serves as an example of a Victorian Irish Australian rules football club that was overlooked until it embraced the Victorian rules. From 1858 to 1866, their style of Australian rules football resembled the pre-GAA Templemore Irish football rules, incorporating elements from the 1859 Melbourne rules but differing significantly from the style played by the Eton clubs along the Yarra River.

⁶¹ ⁶²

St Kilda shunned by Eton rules clubs for not playing according to their rules

Likely due to internal member pressure to adopt the Victorian rules established post-1866, or be left behind with no one to play against, the St Kilda Club of 1859 moved away from the folk styles of Northern England and Scotland towards.

The author points out that the St Kilda Football Club of 1873 is often misidentified as a new entity; however, it is more accurately the original St Kilda Football Club founded in 1859.⁶³ In 1873 the club took the initiative to formalise its rules and operations in 1873 when it relocated near the St Kilda Railway station from the esplanade. That year the club likely foresaw the emergence of organised competition requiring a properly constituted club for participation, as fans and delegates across Melbourne had been advocating for a more regular and standardized fixture of games since 1870.

⁶¹ The influence of football from Eton School and Rugby in England, beginning in 1847, reached Melbourne through Tom Wills' visit to Eton, and these rules were reflected in the Melbourne Football Club's 1859 regulations.

⁶² Eton's school's archivist, states that the first rules date from 1847.

⁶³ ST KILDA OBJECTS TO MELBOURNE RULES 7, FOOTBALL, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th June 1859, Page 3.

Before 1873, the old St Kilda did find its self increasingly isolated from inter-club matches with other “Eton rules” clubs due to its refusal to abandon the Northern England/Southern Scotland version of folk football, which resembled soccer.

Also, during this period 1858 and 1873, British loyal newspapers in Melbourne mainly covered clubs that adopted the Eton rules, with little or no coverage given to St Kilda or the predominantly Victorian Irish member clubs like North Melbourne, Footscray, and Williamstown. Similarly, clubs with a growing Irish membership, such as Collingwood, Fitzroy, and Emerald Hill, were also underrepresented in coverage from 1862 onward.

Hence, why the case is made that the predominantly English/Scottish club St Kilda received less attention than the English/Scottish "Eton rules" clubs, because they favoured a different style of English football resembling soccer. Whilst St Kilda ultimately embraced the Victorian rules, it's had to make a giant leap frog from soccer style to a Australian rules football incorporating from 1866 the Melbourne, Templemore (East Munster), and Eton rules, and Marn-Grook styles of play.

Another outlier club from the two major clusters is Richmond Football Club. Formed in 1860,⁶⁴ ⁶⁵ it is also a notable exception. Initially, it had a close association with the Melbourne Football Club. However, perceived elitism led to Richmond being seen as a "junior" open-age club compared to other Eton rules clubs before 1866, resulting in its exclusion from competition with them. Consequently, the club mainly engaged in intra-club scratch matches during the 1860s, although some Richmond's top may have played for the Melbourne Football Club.

Despite this bias, rising popularity of North Melbourne and its distinctive playing style captured the interest of a city eager to see them compete against the “Eton rules” origin clubs during the Challenge Cup era, especially from the 1870s onward.

With a growing membership, a quality ground in Royal Park, and a pool of talented players, North Melbourne eventually gained recognition in sports reporting. Nevertheless, the of the North Melbourne Irish its football club have often been overlooked due to media biases the mid-1850s to the 1870s, though recent research by historical societies begun to recognise their importance.

The influence of English football is over stated

Even after joining the Victorian Football Association, negative narratives about North Melbourne's Irish community faced misunderstandings from the 1930s to 1952, influenced by the era's prevailing prejudices.

The introduction of Eton rules in 1847 significantly shaped Australian rules football alongside and Scottish folk games, pre-GAA Templemore/East Munster rules, and Marn-Grook. Recognising these varied influences is essential for understanding the game, which is played with an oval ball on oval fields. Since 1927, particularly after 1934, the contributions of non-British football styles like Marn-Grook and pre-GAA Irish football have often been overlooked.

⁶⁴ MELBOURNE v RICHMOND FOOTBALL, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th May 1860, Page 3.

⁶⁵ RICHMOND v SCOTH COLLGE, FOOTBALL, Bell's Life Saturday 19th May 1860, Page 3.

This shift began when VFA administrators celebrated the league's 50th anniversary in 1927, to a narrative that prioritised Eton rules and English football while diminishing the impact of local indigenous styles and Irish contributions.

While modern expert researchers have explored Marn-Grook, this author's aim is to highlight the frequently overlooked Irish influence on rules football, particularly regarding the North Melbourne Football Club during its early years. This section of the book focuses on Irish presence that risks being forgotten, reviving details lost from historical records since the 1930s—an era shaped by two World Wars and a rise in British identity in.

It distinguishes itself from Dowling studies from 1972 and 1997 by delving deeper into the Irish identities within the club and the roots of the playing style, first noted in Graham's Paddock and later in Royal Park post-1859. In doing so, the author pays homage to Dowling's work while offering a fresh perspective on the North Melbourne narrative and its impact on the game, particularly honouring Marn-Grook style. The lack of acknowledgment for the Irish contribution to Australian rules football and the North Football Club in contemporary history is troubling as is relegating Marn-Grook to a mere footnote.

The Irish influence is often minimized, with references limited to Irish gold miners participating in scratch matches in the Victorian gold fields, loosely linked to English football games that inspired these matches in the early 1850s. Rarely mentioned are the Irish football games held every St. Patrick's Day since 1836 or their determination to organise clubs and inter-club matches, which garnered little attention from mainstream newspapers before 1870.

⁶⁶ ⁶⁷

The North Melbourne Football Club was notably affected by being overlooked by mainstream newspapers during the 1860s, more than other clubs. Despite this, they drew large and passionate crowds with their tough and dynamic style of football. During this era and well into the 20th century, the suburb had the highest concentration of Irish immigrants in Australia. Demographics and unfounded fears a Fenian uprising contributed to the absence of football news coverage for the club, suggesting that the pre-VFA history of the game—and the clubs—has been misrepresented.

It seems that only associated with "Eton rules" were considered worthy of recognition prior to the establishment of the VFA. Since 1934, when these historical details began to be reported in newspapers, historians have tentatively identified the founding years of the North Melbourne Football Club as either 1877 or 1869. With little or no concern to delve deeper to discover the club's wonderful earlier past. ⁶⁸ ⁶⁹ ⁷⁰

⁶⁶ Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW, Saturday 6th April 1935, Page 8.

⁶⁷ Ward, T, 2010, The real founders of Aussie Rules? St Patrick's Day Irish Football Match, Monday March 17th 1856, Flemington Racecourse, Football Almanac.

⁶⁸ A case may further be made for Collingwood, Fitzroy, Footscray and Williamstown Football Club's true year of establishment much earlier than presently tributed due to the se clubs with a large Victorian Irish membership also being overlooked in the underrepresented reporting by the contemporary press.

⁶⁹ Marley, L, 2019, "A New History of the Irish in Australia: Racial Profiling Down Under 'No Irish Need Apply' may have been replaced with 'Protestants preferred' but anti-Irish sentiment has not disappeared, Irish Times, Saturday February 2nd 2019.

⁷⁰ R.H. Beckett 1934, Football – As She Was Played! The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 14th April 1934, Page

North Melbourne's true founding father identified

In short it is Mr. Frank Thomas Gell otherwise styled Mr. F. T. Gell. His identity was uncovered in the obscure article by an alias writer "F.M" in 1933. F.M acknowledged Mr. F.T. Gell – an ex-British subject - as the founding father of the North Melbourne Club in 1855, who played their games in Graham's Paddock.

This aligns the Guest family oral history passed down by early members of the North Melbourne Football and Cricket Club, who the author's ancestors.

Mr. Francis Thomas Gell (1854-1891) was a lawyer, Major of North Melbourne and later a Member of Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Victoria. He was born in Lewes Suffolk, England in 1807 and his arrival in Melbourne was on the 16th June 1854.⁷¹

He by his own words left every indication he had little tolerance for the Victorian Irish of the North Melbourne electoral district and by his 1861 speeches of anti-Irish sentiment, there is little room for doubt he helped to fan fears of a local Fenian uprising in Melbourne.^{72 73} Perhaps bitter was the loss of his English styled cricket club unable to keep the football playing Victorian Irish off Graham's Paddock.

Erasure of North Melbourne Football Club from newspaper during the 1860s

The same 1933 article states that the football club was also playing in Royal Park in 1860. Further confirming the cricket and football club shifted to the venue at the start of the 1859/60 cricket season. In 1934 R.H. Beckett's article backs this up.

In contrast, R.H. Beckett's 1934 article largely overlooked Mr. F.T. Gell and much of North Melbourne's early history, effectively reducing the Irish influence by this club on Australian rules to a mere footnote. The establishment of North is loosely said to have occurred in the 1860s. It seems that after 1860, the club was predominantly managed by the Victorian Irish community in North/Hotham. - mostly Anglican Irish with English surnames. Despite this any concerns of a Fenian uprising imminent because large numbers of Irish gathered each Saturday afternoon to cheer boisterously their North Melbourne sons, the club remained apolitical, focusing solely on lobbying the local council for better amenities and enjoying the growth of their organisation.

The incomplete portrayal and misleading representation of ethnic influences on Australian rules football obscure the significant impact of the Irish had on the game. Hugh Buggy's 1952 article, while enjoyable, barely acknowledges the Irish contribution, let alone the influence of Marn-Grook. This oversight may represent one of the greatest injustices in the history of Australian football, particularly as it reached an unprecedented audience eager for football history in the mid-20th century.⁷⁴

⁷¹ McKay, H., 2006, pp43-44, Men of Hotham" Municipal Government in North Melbourne 1859-1905. The Hotham History Project.

⁷² NORTH MELBOURNE ELECTION, MR GELL AT THE UNIVERSITY HOTEL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 13th November 1861, Page 7.

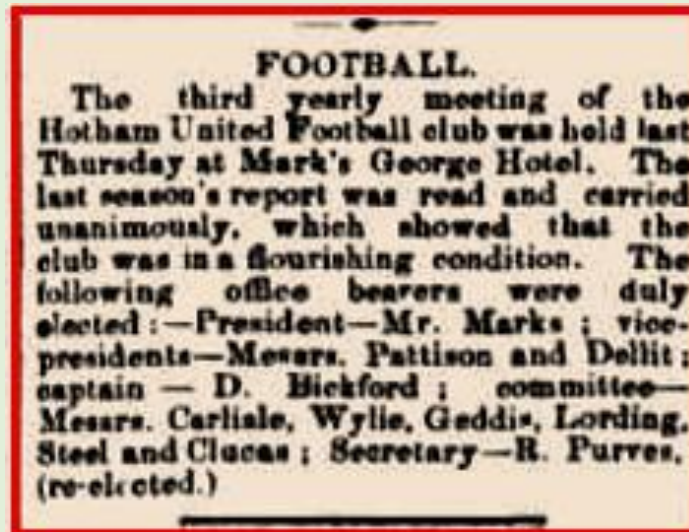
⁷³ Marley, L, 2019, "A New History of the Irish in Australia: Racial Profiling Down Under 'No Irish Need Apply' may have been replaced with 'Protestants preferred' but anti-Irish sentiment has not disappeared, Irish Times, Saturday February 2nd 2019.

⁷⁴ Buggy, H, 1952, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 16th April 1952 – How it all began.

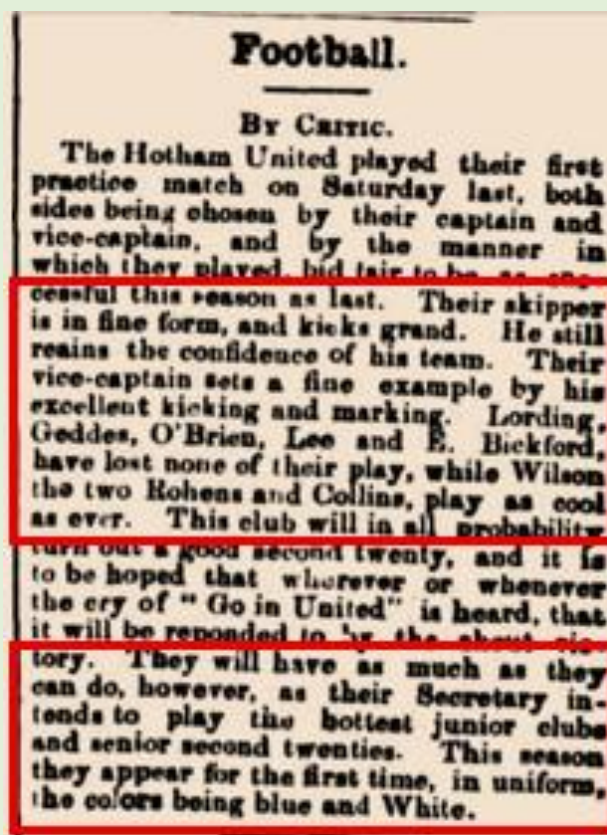
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Out of the 1876 crisis came North Melbourne's swift & enduring response

Reported on Friday the 31st March 1876 was the club's "flourishing condition" – Perhaps political verba - but despite the fact that 12 first-20 players walked out of the club to join Abert Park by week 2 of the 1876 season and played for Albert Park on the 27th May 1876: ⁷⁵



On Friday the 28th of April 1876, local newspaper the North Melbourne publicised the club wearing for the first time the colours blue and white. Named are the familiar club members, *come players*, Lording (Frank's older brother), Geddes, Bickford and Wilson: ⁷⁶



⁷⁵ FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 31st March 1876, Page 3.

⁷⁶ FOOTBALL by Critic, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 28th April 1876, Page 2.

Turning back to the Weekly Times edition of the following day, 29th April, 1876 the paper announced Hotham United had assembled its first 20-team to play a practice game against West Melbourne in Royal Park: ⁷⁷

FOOTBALL.

The following matches will take place this afternoon :—West Melbourne, in the Royal Park : Captain v vice-captain. Hotham United, at Royal Park, for practice ; game to start at 3 o'clock. Warwick : A scratch match on their ground in Richmond Paddock, near Jolimont. Windsor play a scratch match on their ground, corner of Highstreet and Williams road, Windsor. The Cambridge Union meet for practice on Darling square ; all members are requested to be in attendance. The East Melbourne Football Club will play a scratch match in the Richmond Paddock at half-past 2 ; sides to be chosen by captain and vice-captain. Hawthorn will play a scratch match in Grace Park at 3 o'clock sharp. The Albert Park will play a scratch match to-day, sides to be chosen on the ground at 3 o'clock sharp. The Richmond will play a scratch match in the Richmond Paddock. Sides to be chosen at 3 o'clock.

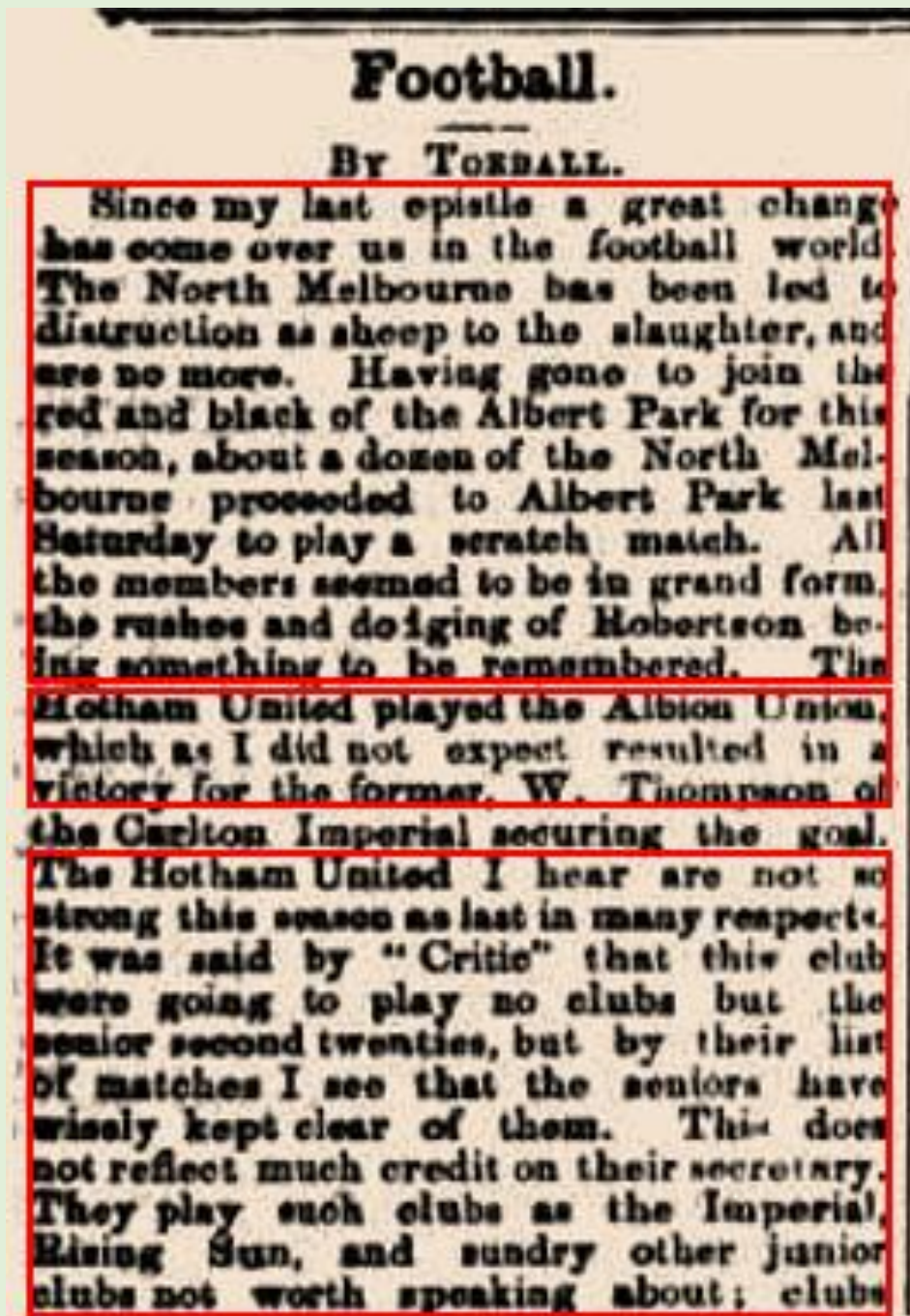
A further article from the North Melbourne Advertiser to follow and written by "Torball" and published on Friday, May 26, 1876, suggests the extinction of the North Melbourne Football Club was imminent—an exaggeration, to say the least!

Torball reveals that James Robertson defected, and we must also include Lochie and Billy Bracken and one of two brothers Dallit among the 12 defectors. The football writer Torball appears agitated when mentioning Hotham Union's victory over Albion Union. The local paper reinforces its negative view of Hotham United's competitiveness due to the 12 defections and criticises the club's secretary, hinting that their re-constituted first-20 team exist solely to play their second-20 team. This is taken to be a slight on the club from Melbourne and Carlton's stance not to play against North due to umpiring in difference in games played between them in 1874 and 19875 seasons. However, Torball goes on to correct himself, noting that Hotham United's first-20, which defeated Albion Park, was competing against other first-20 clubs rather than among themselves.

⁷⁷ FOOTBALL, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th April 1876, Page 5.

Taken by the present author as somewhat of a back-handed remark, Torball further emphasised by highlighting the "junior" status of the teams Hotham United faced, undermining both the opposing clubs and Hotham unbeaten streak.

Clearly, the football writers for the North Melbourne Advertiser in 1876 supported the player exodus, backed revolt seeing 12 players crossing to Albert Park club, and seemed eager to engage in the football conflict, perhaps attempting to provoke the North club into a catastrophic downfall. History proved however, that North Melbourne Football Club, known then as Hotham United, dusted themselves off and exist to this day in elite AFL competition.⁷⁸



Continue ...

⁷⁸ FOOTBALL by Torball, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 3.

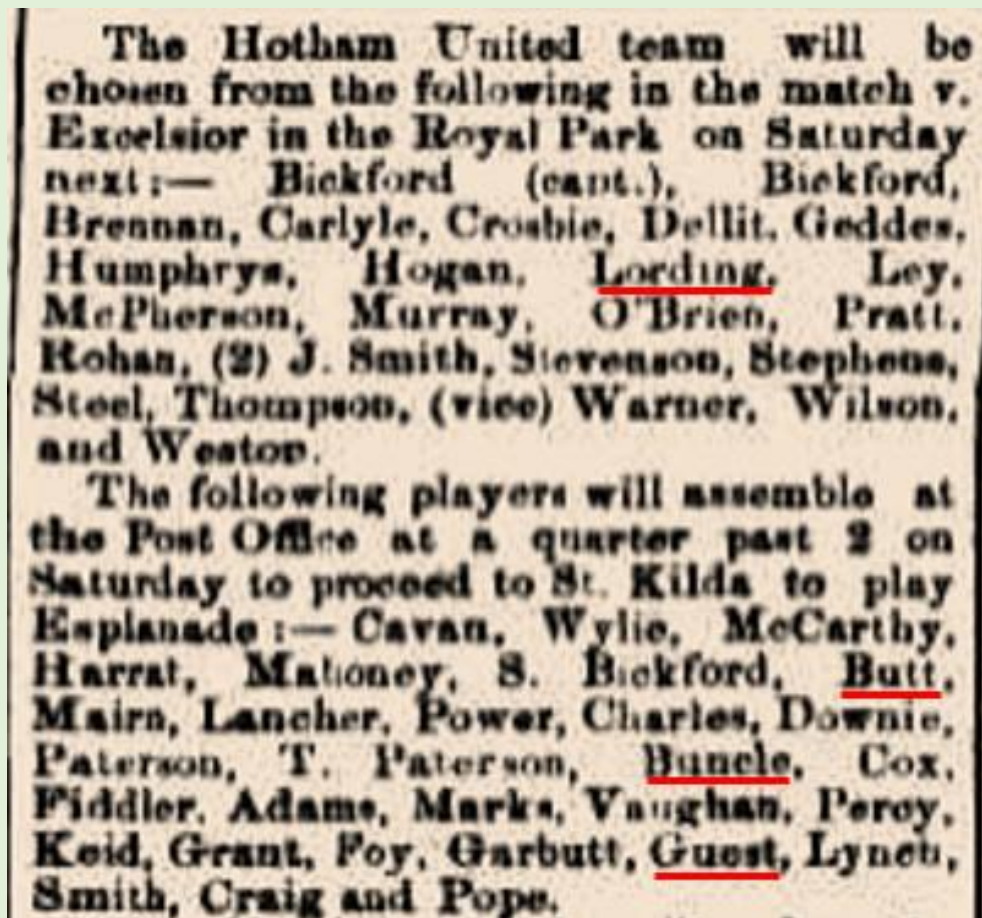
that they think they will be sure in giving a dubbing and then say they have not been beaten this season. The Geelong

Imperial, I hear, are not going to play them for this reason, that when they took a glance over their list of matches, they at once formed the idea, as I expected a week or two ago, that they must be school boys. The Northern, owing to some misunderstanding on the part of their opponents captain, did not play. I hear that their secretary has arranged a match with the Albert Park 2nd twenty, to be played in the Royal Park on Saturday; this match I think will be worth seeing. This club, I see, has a good programme arranged for them, matches being placed with nearly all the senior 2nd twenties. I was not a little surprised to see that a match has not been arranged between the two leading clubs of Hotham, namely, Northern and

Hotham United, the latter backing out of it altogether and seem to be frightened, thinking that the Northern are too good for them. The Northern are willing to arrange a match with them for the championship of Hotham, so as to let the public know who are the best club in every respect.

The very next week after the dozen players went to play for Albert Park - and after the so-called schoolboys, Guest, Lording, Butt, Buncle gave a great account for themselves against Albion Union Football Club, they were elevated to the first-20 in the case of Frank Lording and the second-20 for youngster Will Guest, Sam Butt and Alf Buncle.⁷⁹

Other named for North (Hotham United) across the two successive matches shown below are: Adams, Bickford (Captain); [S] Bickford, Brennan, Carlyle, Cavan, Charles,⁸⁰ Cox, Craig, Crosbie, Dellitt, Downie, Fiddler, Geddes, Harrat, Humphreys, Hogan, Lancher, Ley, Lynch, Mahoney, Mairn, Marks, McCarthy, McPherson, Murray, O'Brien, Paterson, Pope, Power, Pratt, Rohan, Rohan, J. Smith, Stevenson, Stephens, Steel, Thompson (Vice Captain), Vaughan, Warner, Wilson, Weston and Whylic:⁸¹



The very next day football writer and agitator for North's demise Peter Pindar writing for The Australian gave further oxygen to the merger in the Football Gossip article stating in his brief but impactful piece that:

"The amalgamation of the North Melbourne with Albert-park, rumoured last week, is now *'fait accompli'*"

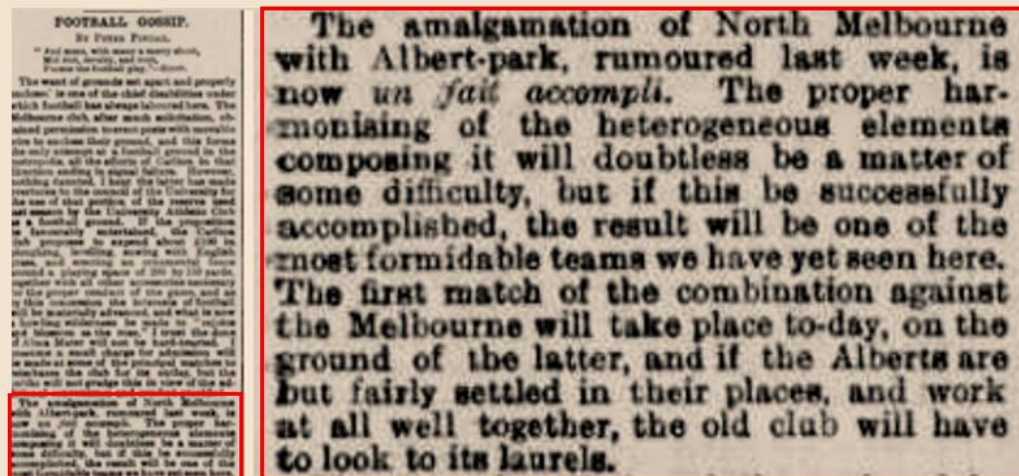
⁷⁹ Alf Buncle is a son of Hotham Councillor, John Buncle who served 1859-1860, 1870-1871, McKay, H, 2012, Borough of Hotham Council 1859-1887 - North Melbourne Council 1887-1905.

⁸⁰ This player Mr. Charles is certain to be James Charles, 1869 committee man and witness to North Melbourne Football Club's decision to hold its committee meeting in St Mary's Church of England, school room from 1869 and the founding father of the present Richmond Football Club VFA/VFL/AFL extant.

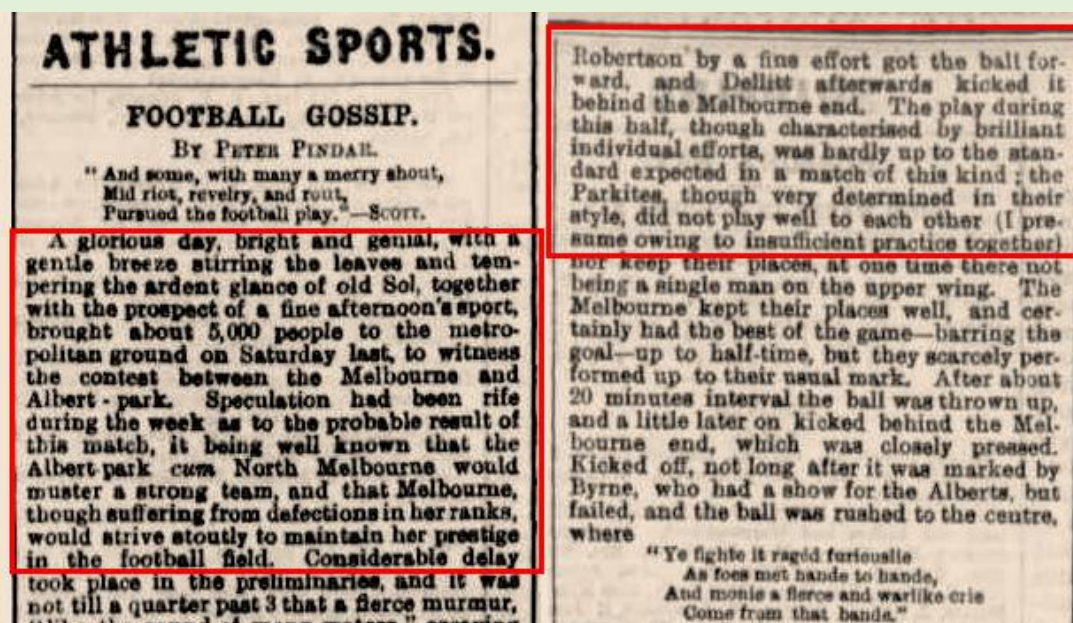
⁸¹ FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 3.

Since Pindar's article published almost 150 years ago, many contemporary football historians have ignored the contradictions in his dubious article, especially the phrase *"but if be successfully accomplished, the result will be one of the most formidable teams."*

This crucial caveat has been overlooked by many respected football historians, including club historians, to incorrectly assume that a merger took place. However, there is no evidence whatsoever to be found from the Annual General Meetings of the Albert Park or North Melbourne Football Clubs to substantiate such a merger because it did not occur. Given the importance of this event for either club, it would have undoubtedly been documented in the minutes and reported by newspapers during the relevant meeting:⁸²



Doubling down as it seems on his desire for the merger to occur, and suggesting in hindsight Pindar favoured Albert Park Football Club to become a dominant force, perhaps aware formation of an elite football association code bearing competition was approaching quickly, he continues his bravado of the 5,000 strong spectator seeking pull of the Albert Park the following week, but left disappointed with the result against Melbourne:⁸³



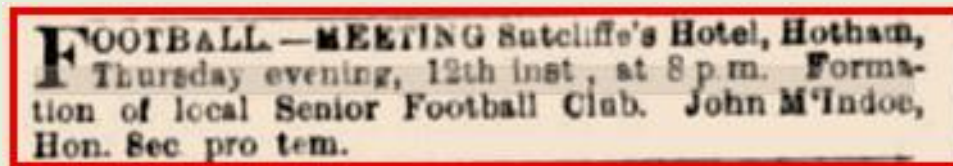
⁸² FOOTBALL GOSSIP, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 27th May 1876, Page 13.

⁸³ ATHLETIC SPORTS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 3rd June 1876, Page 13.

Taken from the Guest family archives is a photograph of North Melbourne's first-20 team of 1876.



Prior to the commencement of the 1877 season, Mr R. Purves, stood down as club secretary and elected was Messrs John McIndoe. He organised a meeting at Sutcliffe's Hotel, Flemington Road Hotham, for Thursday the 12th April 1876, inviting all and sundry to attend for the formation of the local Senior Football Club to throw off its junior standing among clubs like Albert Park and to launch the old club into a new era.⁸⁴



Consulting a most valuable article published by The Age on 13th May 1933, a number of verifications are made in regards not only to the North Melbourne Football Club but also the North Melbourne Cricket Club which raised in int 1858/9. This includes confirmation of T.S. Marshall as a North Melbourne Football Club player, and Hotham Cricket Club Secretary in 1882, recognising the NMCC was formed in 1855. The cricket club's home ground from 1855 to 1859 was Graham's Paddock near the old Benevolent Paddock.⁸⁵

The article informs further that NMCC's first president was Mr. F. T. Gell. He officiated it seems long enough to see the cricket club's amalgamation with Royal Park CC. From 1868 the cricket department played at Hotham Recreational Reserve, and in 1873, the cricket club was given official permission by the Melbourne City Council to play on the Hotham Recreational Reserve, i.e., Arden Street Oval. Extracted further from the same article, T.S. Marshall is confirmed to be the secretary of the North Melbourne Cricket Club in 1882:

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North Melbourne Cricket Club, which afterwards changed its name to Hotham, and reverted later to North Melbourne again, was established in 1855. By public advertisement the club notified that it played every Saturday afternoon in Graham's Paddock (near the old Melbourne Benevolent Asylum). The first president was Mr. F. T. Gell. The club afterwards amalgamated with Royal Park and played in that park. In 1868 the club commenced playing on the present site, and the ground was reserved for cricket purposes, and permissive occupancy granted by the Crown to the Hotham Cricket Club in 1873. The club's most prominent earliest players included Birkenyre, M. Smith and Donald. When the present ground was first obtained the club's leading players were R. Collie, Wm. McLean, T. S. Marshall (afterwards secretary of the Victorian Football Association), and who did more for football in Victoria, perhaps, than any other man; Randal J. Aleock (who became one of Melbourne's best-known and wealthiest citizens), Geo.

⁸⁴ The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 7th April 1877, Page 12, Advertising.

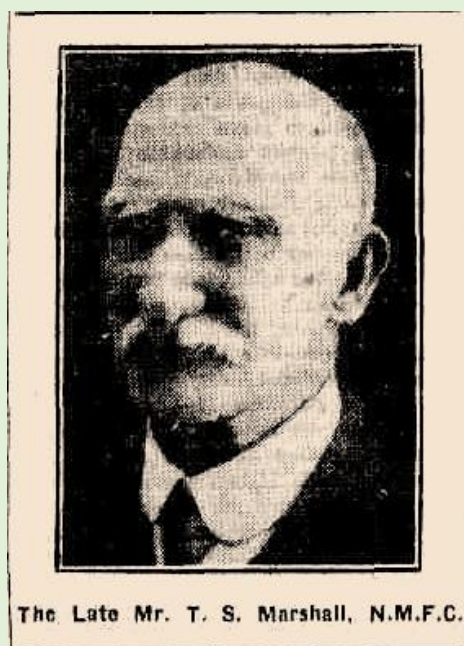
⁸⁵ Deductively, NMCC played on Graham's paddock and perhaps NMFC's scratch match era also started there in 1859 before the clubs moved to Royal Park to play. The football club remained playing in Royal Park until June 1882, and the NMCC left Royal Park at the end of the 1867 cricket season.

⁸⁶ Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., "North Melbourne" by F.M., The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.

The 1933 article cautiously writes the football club was in “existence in the 60s” [1860s], and rolls with the articles no doubt taken from its archives of 1877 holding the position the football club disbanded, now proven that the football club’s demise was wrong and perpetuated by Peter Pindar’s propaganda and inuendo in 1876.⁸⁷

A North Melbourne football club which played at Royal Park was in existence in the “60’s,” but it disbanded. The Hotham club was established at a meeting held on 12th April, 1877. Mr. R. H. Talbot, of the Hotham Cricket Club, presided. The first captain was H. Fuhrhop, the vice-captain Wm. McLean, and the president Mr. R. Sutcliffe. Other early captains were A. Young, A. Ley, W. Johnson, R. Houston, E. E. Bean and E. Lording. Prominent early players were J. Robertson, F. Lording, Neely, Sutcliffe, Paterson, Bruce, Gardiner (afterwards alderman), Traynor, Dellett, Tankard, A. and H. Todd, Alessio, R. Gibson, S. Rouliert, Abrahams, W. Stuckey, W. Carlton and Franks. McLean and Lording, who played in the first inter-colonial football match, are still alive. In more recent times the celebrated combination Barker, Rawle and Hardy brought the club considerable fame, and still later the loyal and efficient services of the big-framed and big-hearted “Johnny” Lewis have been noteworthy.

The Age’s article of 13th May 1933 confirms Mr. T. S. Marshall of the NMCC and NMFC at an earlier point in time become from 1882 until 1897 Secretary of the VFA and offers his image as a memorial to his wonderful life living to 91 years, expiring on the 13th January 1933.⁸⁸



⁸⁷ Ibid, Melbourne’s Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., 13th May 1933, Page 18.

⁸⁸ Ibid, Melbourne’s Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., 13th May 1933, Page 18.

This advertisement in the Melbourne Advertiser was very specific for the formation of a “senior “ football club, taken to mean a first-20 team to the standard for entry into the elite, new, Victorian Football Association (VFA) and in the process restoring the dignity of the North Melbourne Football Club which was stripped by delegates of other senior clubs the year prior when they turned their back on North Melbourne 1876 first-20 squad. This consequence was a raid by Albert Park Football Club of 12 of North’s 1876 first-20 players.

This is what The Age newspaper wrote on the 14th April 1877 about the meeting at Sutcliffe’s Hotel on the 12th April 1877, with the old North Melbourne Football Club continuing, but with its new purpose ratified by its members that evening to be a “senior” club rather than a junior club, which it was considered at that time: ⁸⁹

A large and very enthusiastic assemblage of the footballers of Hotham and neighborhood was held at Sutcliffe's Hotel on Thursday evening for the purpose of forming a local senior football club. Mr. R. H. Talbot occupied the chair. After some discussion it was proposed and carried by acclamation that a club be formed, to be called the Hotham. The following office-bearers for the new club were then elected:—
Patrons: The mayor of Hotham, Mr. T. Henderson, Mr. W. M. Cook, M.P., and Mr. J. Buncle; president, Mr. R. Sutcliffe; vice-presidents, Messrs. Talbot, Hastings, Dobson and Gillman, hon. secretary, Mr. John M'Indoe; hon. treasurer, Mr. Jas. Gardiner; hon. secretary second twenty, Mr. Wm. Burdick; committee, Messrs. M'Lean, Fuhrhop, Robertson, Dellitt, and Slatery; captain, Mr. Henry Fuhrhop; vice-captain, Mr. Wm. M'Lean. A large number of members were enrolled, and to judge from the promises of support accorded to the new club it is fully expected to maintain the honor of the district in the football arena, and take a leading position among the senior football clubs.

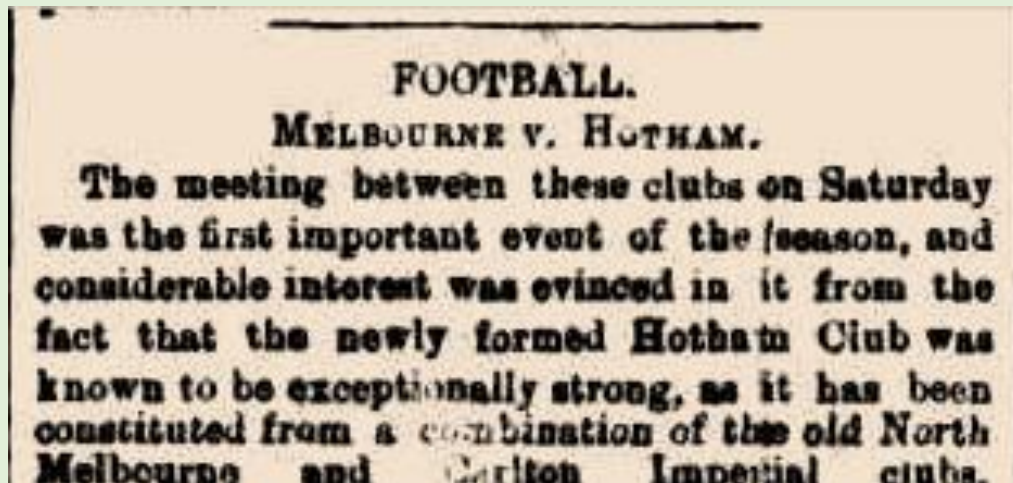
No amalgamation, no disbandment, just a friendly take-over of Carlton Imperial FC

Many of the North Melbourne Football Club stalwarts, past, present and future are listed above: President: R [Richard] Sutcliffe; Vice Presidents: Talbot, Hastings, Dobson and Gillman; Hon Secretary, Mr John McIndoe; Hon Treasurer, Mr. James Gardiner; Hon Secretary Second-20, Mr, William Burdick; General Committee Members; McLean, Fuhrhop, Robertson, Dellitt, Slatery; Captain Mr. Henry Fuhrhop; and Vice-Captain, Mr. William McLean.

What was overlooked in The Argus article, unsaid, was old North absorption of formidable neighbourhood club, Carlton Imperial. Ever since many other historians have overlooked this important part of North’s football history. And considered restored through this page, is that the crowded meeting at Sutcliffe’s hotel was intended to ensure that North as Hotham prevailed and they lock, stock and barrel took over and consumed the Carlton Imperial Football Club that evening.

⁸⁹ FOOTBALL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 14th April 1877, Page 7.

To support author's claims, he presents an intriguing article by a football writer from The Age, who documented the 1877 match between Melbourne and Hotham. This match highlights how the original North Melbourne Football Club, with its roots in Royal Park since 1860 and raised by North Melbourne Cricket Club from 1858/9, was bolstered and grew significantly stronger by incorporating the Carlton Imperial Football Club. The Age footballer writer's brief mention of this has remained hidden in plain sight for nearly years and now resurfaces here, further validating the Guest family lore by solid evidence of their active involvement passed down since their involvement with the North Melbourne Football Club during the years 1859-1888 that the savvy club, existed long before the VFA, VFL and AFL gives it credit: ⁹⁰



Peter Pindar in 1877 in his regular article in The Australasian, on the 12th May 1877, reported that imminent was the arrival of the Victorian Football Association to develop the game and clubs to new heightened levels. Agreed by those representing clubs desiring such an association including consideration of the VFA draft constitution and bye laws and the playing fixture.

Further were the positive words of Hotham as North Melbourne Football Club considered by its contemporaries as a bona fide senior club after most of its Albert Park defections returned to the represent Hotham slated to be a foundation club of the VFA about to be founded: ⁹¹

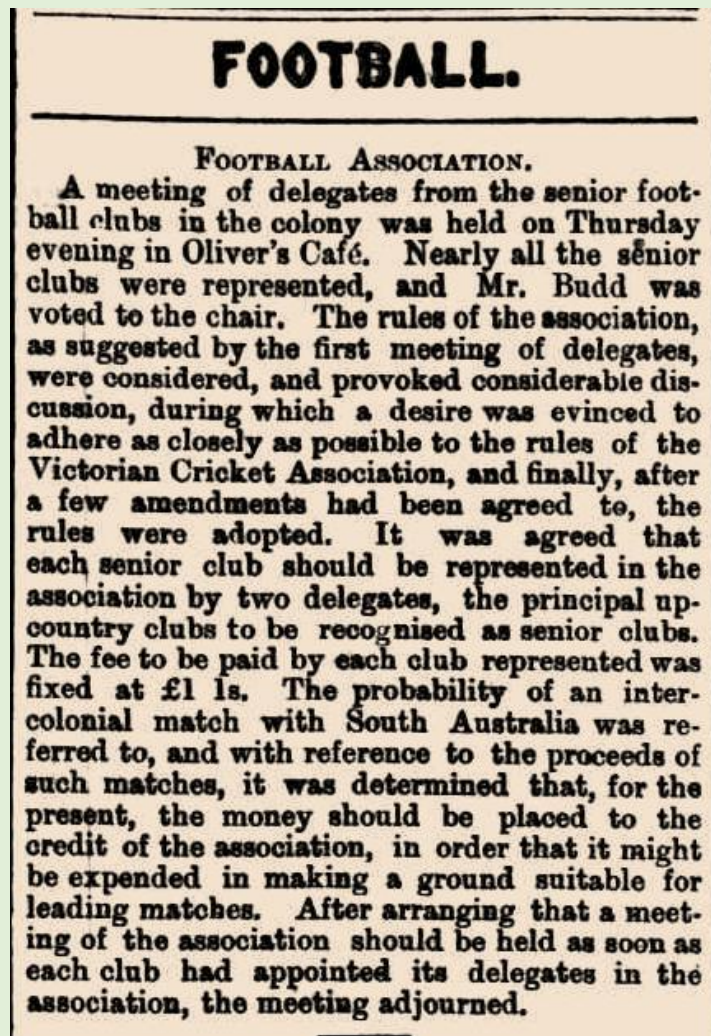
“A strong club, composed chiefly of members of the old North Melbourne, which played under the wing of the Albert-park last season, has been ushered into existence under the name of the Hotham. I look for great things from it, comprising, as it does, some of our very best players; and as it has a good, energetic secretary, and a fair committee, I have every hope that its career will be both reputable and prosperous.”

Pindar further noted that a forthcoming meeting at the Nissen Café on Wednesday the 16th May 1876 would allow secretaries of the senior clubs to organise the upcoming season's fixture.

⁹⁰ FOOTBALL, MELBOURNE v HOTHAM, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 4th June 1877, Page 3.

⁹¹ ATHLETIC SPORTS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 12th May 1877, Page 12.

Submitted overleaf is a facsimile of The Weekly Times, article published on Saturday 19th May 1877 which reports the formation of the VFA on Thursday the 17th May 1877. They wrote that meeting of all “senior clubs” in the colony was held in Oliver’s Café. It shows that Mr. Budd was elected as the inaugural Chair of the VFA. Each club delegate agreeing each club would be represented in the association by two delegates to which the next meeting would proceed immediately after each club appointed its two delegates and the meeting was adjourned.^{92 93}



That said, less than about five weeks after North Melbourne Football Club absorbed Carlton Imperial Football Club, North's new purpose as an elite ‘senior’ club which was then rhetoric, became a reality on Thursday 17th May 1877. That day the old North Melbourne Football Club's dignity was restored by being accepted into the new, controlled, Victorian Football Association as a foundation member club of the VFA.

Both first and second-20 teams played under the name Hotham; and the second-20 side are subsequently found below cited on seven occasions as Hotham United, a symbolic relic of the 1876 season, rather than a nod to their take-over of the Carlton Imperial Football Club.⁹⁴

⁹² FOOTBALL Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th May 1877, Page 5.

⁹³ Oliver's Café is taken by the present author as an error for Nissen's Café.

⁹⁴ The June 23rd 1877 match against Brunswick is considered a duplicate error for the following week's game against Hotham United or vice-versa error.

It was on Friday the 18th May 1877, The Argus newspaper stepped out in full the inaugural 1877 VFA fixture for the first-20 and second-20 competition in its entirety. The submission below repeats the practice initiated by The Argus. The present author's observation makes the North Melbourne's 1876 season name, Hotham United as a relic among the second-20 fixture and certain meant to be the simplified, Hotham second-twenty:⁹⁵

FOOTBALL ENGAGEMENTS.	
A meeting of the secretaries of the various football clubs was held at Nissen's Cafe last evening, for the purpose of arranging matches for the coming season.	
MELBOURNE CLUB.	
May 19—	West Melbourne (25), at Melbourne.
May 26—	North Fitzroy (25), at Melbourne.
June 2—	Hotham, at Melbourne.
June 9—	Carlton, at Melbourne.
June 16—	Hawthorn (25), at Melbourne.
June 23—	Barwon, at Melbourne.
June 30—	St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 2—	Inglewood (25), at Inglewood.
July 7—	Geelong, at Geelong.
July 14—	Carlton, at Carlton.
July 21—	Williamstown (25), at Melbourne.
July 28—	Hotham, at Hotham.
Aug. 4—	Essendon (25), at Melbourne.
Aug. 11—	Albert-park, at Albert-park.
Aug. 18—	West Melbourne (25), at West Melbourne.
Aug. 25—	Carlton, at Melbourne.
Sept. 1—	Public Schools (25), at Melbourne.
Sept. 8—	Hotham, at Melbourne.
Sept. 15—	Albert-park, at Melbourne.
Sept. 22—	St. Kilda, at Melbourne.
Sept. 29—	Carlton, at Carlton.
MELBOURNE SECOND TWENTY.	
May 24—	Clifton, at Melbourne.
May 31—	Carlton, at Melbourne.
June 7—	Hotham, at Melbourne.
June 14—	Warwick, at Melbourne.
June 21—	Northcote, at Croxton-park.
June 28—	St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 7—	Abbotsford, at Melbourne.
July 14—	Essendon, at Essendon.
July 21—	Warwick, at Melbourne.
Aug. 4—	Clifton, at Clifton.
Aug. 11—	Carlton Imperial, at Melbourne.
Aug. 18—	Keilor, at Keilor.
Sept. 1—	Carlton, at Carlton.
Sept. 8—	Coast, at Melbourne.
Sept. 15—	Geelong, at Geelong.
Sept. 22—	Northcote, at Melbourne.

Continued ...

⁹⁵ FOOTBALL ENGAGEMENTS, The Argus Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 18th May 1877, Page 7.

CARLTON CLUB.

May 24–Fellars, at Ballarat.
 May 26–West Melbourne (13), at Carlton.
 June 2–Victorian Railways (13), at Carlton.
 June 5–Melbourne, on the Melbourne Oid
 ground.
 June 16–Albert park, at Albert-park.
 June 22 and 23–Warratah, at Sydney, N.S.
 First day, Victorian rules; second day, Rugby U.
 June 30–Williamstown (10 to 15), at Carlton.
 July 7–Hotham, at Carlton.
 July 14–Melbourne, at Carlton.
 July 21–St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 July 28–Geelong, at Carlton.
 Aug. 4–Albert-park, at Carlton.
 Aug. 11–Hawthorn (10), at Carlton.
 Aug. 18–Hotham, at Carlton.
 Aug. 25–Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 Sept. 1–South Melbourne (10), at Carlton.
 Sept. 8–St. Kilda, at Carlton.
 Sept. 15–Fremdon (10 to 15), at Carlton.
 Sept. 22–Darwin, at Geelong, for Hospital Su
 day.
 Sept. 29–Melbourne, at Carlton, for Major
 Hospital.

ALBERT-PARK FIRST TWENTY.

May 19–Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
 May 26–Carltonian, at Carltonian.
 June 2–St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 June 9–Fremdon, at Fremdon.
 June 16–Carlton, at Albert park.
 June 23–Victorian Railways, at Albert-park.
 June 30–Hutchinson (10), at Albert-park.
 July 7–Fremdon, at Geelong.
 July 14–Hotham United (10), at Albert-park.
 July 21–Hotham, at Albert park.
 July 28–Carlton Imperial, at Carlton.
 Aug. 4–Carlton, at Carlton.
 Aug. 11–Melbourne, at Albert park.
 Aug. 18–St. Kilda, at Albert-park.
 Aug. 25–Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
 Sept. 1–Hotham, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 8–Geelong, at Geelong.
 Sept. 15–Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 Sept. 22–Hotham, at Albert-park.

ALBERT-PARK SECOND TWENTY.

June 5–St. Kilda second twenty, at Albert park.
 June 16–Carlton Imperial second twenty, at C
 rton.
 June 23–Excelsior, at Albert park.
 June 30–Richmond Standard, at Albert-park.
 July 7–Carlton second twenty, at Albert-park.
 July 14–Abbotsford, at Albert-park.
 July 21–Hotham second twenty, at Royal-park.
 July 28–Richmond Standard, at Richmond.
 Aug. 4–St. Kilda second twenty, at St. Kilda.
 Aug. 11–Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
 Aug. 18–Imperial, at Albert park.
 Sept. 1–Hotham second twenty, at Albert-park.
 Sept. 8–Excelsior, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 15–Abbotsford, at Collingwood.
 Sept. 22–Carlton second twenty, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 29–Hotham second twenty, at Royal-park.

HOOTHAM CLUB.

May 24–Fawkner (15), at Fawkner-park.
 June 2–Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 June 12–Fawkner (15), at Royal park.
 June 20–Keller (15), at Keller.
 July 7–Carlton, at Carlton.
 July 14–Keller (15), at Royal-park.
 July 21–Albert-park, at Albert park.
 July 28–Melbourne, at Royal park.
 Aug. 4–Carlton Imperial, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 11–Darwin, at Geelong.
 Aug. 18–Carlton, at Carlton.
 Aug. 25–Williamstown (15), at Royal-park.
 Sept. 1–Albert-park, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 8–Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 Sept. 15–Hotham United (15), at Royal-park.
 Sept. 22–Albert park, at Albert-park.
 Sept. 29–Williamstown (15), at Williamstown.

Continued ...

ST. KILDA CLUB.

May 24—Kyneton, at Kyneton.
 May 26—Hawthorn, at St. Kilda.
 June 2—Albert-park, at St. Kilda.
 June 9—Williamstown, at St. Kilda.
 June 16—Essendon, at St. Kilda.
 June 23—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
 June 30—Melbourne, at St. Kilda.
 July 14—Geelong, at Geelong.
 July 21—Carlton, at St. Kilda.
 July 28—Essendon, at Essendon.
 Aug. 4—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 11—South Melbourne, at St. Kilda.
 Aug. 18—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
 Aug. 25—Geelong, at St. Kilda.
 Sept. 1—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 8—Carlton, at Carlton.
 Sept. 15—South Melbourne, at South Melbourne.
 Sept. 22—Melbourne, at Melbourne.

CARLTON IMPERIAL SECOND TWENTY.

May 16—Excelesior, at University-ground.
 June 9—Northcote, at University-ground.
 June 16—Albert-park, at University-ground.
 June 23—Hotham-hill, at Royal-park.
 June 30—Clifton, at Darling-gardens.
 July 7—Excelesior, at Royal-park.
 July 14—Collingwood, at Collingwood.
 July 21—East St. Kilda, at University-ground.
 July 28—Abbotsford, at University-ground.
 Aug. 4—Carlton second twenty, at University-ground.
 Aug. 11—Melbourne second twenty, at Melbourne.
 Aug. 18—Albert-park second twenty, at Albert-park.
 Aug. 25—Hotham second twenty, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 1—Clifton, at University-ground.
 Sept. 8—Carlton second twenty, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 15—Hotham second twenty, University.
 Sept. 22—Collingwood, at University.
 Sept. 29—Abbotsford, at Abbotsford.

HAWTHORN FIRST TWENTY.

May 24—Kilmore, at Kilmore.
 May 26—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 June 2—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
 June 16—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 June 23—Essendon, at Essendon.
 June 30—Hotham, at Hawthorn.
 July 7—Northcote, at Northcote.
 July 14—Victorian Railways, at Jolimont.
 July 21—West Melbourne, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 4—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 11—Carlton, at Carlton.
 Aug. 18—Flemington, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 25—Victorian Railways, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 1—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 8—Hotham, at Hotham.

HAWTHORN SECOND TWENTY.

May 19—St. Kilda Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
 May 24—Balclava, at Hawthorn.
 May 30—Sands and M'Dougall's, at Hawthorn.
 June 6—Coast, at Hawthorn.
 June 9—Clifton, at Clifton.
 June 16—Essendon, at Hawthorn.
 June 23—Toorak, at Toorak.
 June 30—Albert, at Hawthorn.
 July 7—West of Eglisod, at Hawthorn.
 July 14—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 July 21—St. Kilda Esplanade, at Hawthorn.
 July 28—Coast, at Elsternwick.
 Aug. 4—Toorak, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 11—West Melbourne (second), at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 18—Clifton, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 25—Essendon, at Essendon.
 Sept. 1—South Melbourne (second), at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 8—Albert, at Fawkner park.
 Sept. 15—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 22—East St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 29—Balclava, at Windsor.

Continued ...

ESSENDON FIRST TWENTY.

May 10—Victorian Railways, at Essendon.
 May 14—Hallarat, at Hallarat.
 May 16—Standard (23), at Essendon.
 June 2—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
 June 9—Albert-park, at Essendon.
 June 16—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 June 23—Hawthorn, at Essendon.
 June 30—South Melbourne, at Essendon.
 July 7—Victorian Railways, at Victorian Railways.
 July 14—West Melbourne, at Essendon.
 July 21—Northcote, at Northcote.
 July 28—St. Kilda, at Essendon.
 Aug. 4—Melbourne (v. 25), at Melbourne.
 Aug. 11—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 Aug. 18—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 25—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 1—Geelong, at Geelong.
 Sept. 8—Northcote, at Essendon.
 Sept. 15—Carlton (v. 25), open.
 Sept. 22—South Melbourne, at Albert-park.

ESSENDON SECOND TWENTY.

May 26—Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
 June 2—Victoria United, at Royal-park.
 June 9—Warwick, at Richmond.
 June 16—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 June 23—Killer, at Essendon.
 June 30—Esplanade, at Essendon.
 July 7—Warwick, at Essendon.
 July 14—Toorak, at Toorak.
 July 21—Melbourne, at Essendon.
 July 28—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 Aug. 4—Lincoln United, at Essendon.
 Aug. 11—Victoria United, at Essendon.
 Aug. 18—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 Aug. 25—Hawthorn, at Essendon.
 Sept. 1—Toorak, at Essendon.
 Sept. 8—Lincoln United, at Royal park.
 Sept. 15—Bellevue, at Essendon.

HOTHAM SECOND TWENTY.

May 16—Hotham-hill, at Hotham.
 June 2—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
 June 9—East St. Kilda, at Hotham.
 June 16—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
 June 23—Brunswick, at Brunswick.
 June 30—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 July 7—West Melbourne, at West Melbourne.
 July 14—Brunswick, at Hotham.
 July 21—Albert-park, at Hotham.
 July 28—Carlton, at Carlton.
 Aug. 4—Brunswick, at Brunswick.
 Aug. 11—Carlton, at Hotham.
 Aug. 18—Williamstown, at Hotham.
 Aug. 25—Carlton Imperial, at Hotham.
 Sept. 1—Albert-park, at Albert park.
 Sept. 8—Hawthorn, at Hotham.
 Sept. 15—Carlton Imperial, at University.
 Sept. 22—Hotham-hill, at Hotham.
 Sept. 29—Albert park, at Hotham.

RICHMOND STANDARD.

May 10, 24—East St. Kilda, at Richmond.
 May 16—Essendon (twenty-five), at Essendon.
 June 2—Footscray, at Footscray.
 June 9—Balaclava, at Richmond.
 June 16—Cosmopolitan, at Richmond.
 June 23—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
 June 30—Albert park, second Twenty, at Albert-park.
 July 7—Collingwood, at Richmond.
 July 21—Metropolitan Artillery, at Royal-park.
 July 28—Albert park Second Twenty, at Richmond.
 Aug. 4—Cosmopolitan, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 11—Balaclava, at Windsor.
 Aug. 18—Williamstown, at Richmond.
 Aug. 25—Clifton, at Richmond.
 Sept. 1—Metropolitan Artillery, at Richmond.
 Sept. 8—South Yarra Standard, at Richmond.
 Sept. 15—Clifton, at Darling-gardens.
 Sept. 22—Footscray, at Richmond.
 Oct. 6—South Yarra Standard, at Fawcner-park.

Continued ...

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

May 12—Essendon, at Essendon.
 May 24—Bendigo, at Sandhurst.
 May 26—North Fitzroy, at Jolimont.
 June 2—Carlton, at Carlton.
 June 16—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
 June 23—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
 June 26—Excelesior, at Royal-park.
 July 7—Essendon, at Jolimont.
 July 14—Hawthorn, at Jolimont.
 July 21—Geelong, at Geelong.
 July 28—Hotham United, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 4—Star of Richmond, at Jolimont.
 Aug. 11—North Fitzroy, at Fitzroy.
 Aug. 18—Hotham United, at Jolimont.
 Aug. 25—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 Sept. 1—Northcote, at Jolimont.
 Sept. 6—Williamstown, at Jolimont.
 Sept. 13—Geelong, at Jolimont.
 Sept. 22—West Melbourne, at Jolimont.
 Sept. 29—Star of Richmond, at Richmond.

BRUNSWICK.

May 19—Coburg, at Coburg.
 June 2—Hotham-hill, at Brunswick.
 June 9—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
 June 23—Hotham second twenty, at Brunswick.
 June 30—Hotham United, at Brunswick.
 July 7—Coburg, at Brunswick.
 July 14—Hotham second twenty, at Hotham.
 July 21—Alberts, at Brunswick.
 July 28—North Fitzroy, at Brunswick.
 Aug. 4—Hotham second twenty, at Hotham.
 Aug. 11—Coburg, at Brunswick.
 Aug. 18—Adelphian, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 22—Warwick, at Richmond-paddock.
 Sept. 1—North Fitzroy, at Fitzroy.
 Sept. 8—Hotham-hill, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 15—Warwick, at Brunswick.
 Oct. 5—Adelphian, at Brunswick.

ESPLANADE, ST. KILDA.

May 19—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
 May 24—Dandenong, at Dandenong.
 May 26—Essendon Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
 June 2—Warwick, at Richmond.
 June 9—Bacslava, at St. Kilda.
 June 16—Hotham United Second Twenty, at Royal-
park.
 June 23—Coast, at St. Kilda.
 June 30—Essendon Second Twenty, at Essendon.
 July 7—Toorak, at Toorak.
 July 14—Northcote, at St. Kilda.
 July 21—St. Kilda Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
 July 28—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.

Continued ...

Aug. 18—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 25—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
 Sept. 1—St. Kilda Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
 Sept. 17—Toorak, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 29—Hotham United, at St. Kilda.
 Oct. 8—Northcote, at Northcote.
 Oct. 15—Young Victorians, at Albert-park.

BALACLAVA CLUB.

May 13—Abbotsford, at Windsor.
 May 24—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at Hawthorn.
 May 26—Toorak, at Windsor.
 June 2—Albert, at Windsor.
 June 9—Esplanade, at Esplanade.
 June 16—South Yarra Standard, at Fawkner-park.
 June 23—East St. Kilda, at Windsor.
 July 7—Sanda and M'Dougall's, at Windsor.
 July 14—Fawkner, at Windsor.
 July 21—Young Victorians, at Albert-park.
 July 28—Toorak, at Toorak.
 Aug. 4—East St. Kilda, at East St. Kilda.
 Aug. 26—South Yarra Standard, at Windsor.
 Sept. 1—Fawkner, at Fawkner-park.
 Sept. 8—Young Victorians, at Windsor.
 Sept. 15—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
 Sept. 22—Esplanade, at Windsor.
 Sept. 29—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at Windsor.

ADELPHIAN CLUB.

May 13—Victoria United, at Royal-park.
 May 26—West of England, at Clifton-hill.
 June 2—North Carlton, at Royal-park.
 June 9—Darling United, at Royal-park.
 June 16—Star of Richmond, at Royal-park.
 June 23—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
 June 30—North Carlton, at North Carlton.
 July 7—Albert, at Royal-park.
 July 14—North Fitzroy, at Royal-park.
 July 21—Star of Richmond, at Richmond.
 July 28—West of England, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 4—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 11—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
 Aug. 18—Brunswick, at Royal-park.
 Aug. 25—Darling United, at York-street, Richmond.
 Sept. 1—Star of Richmond, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 8—Cosmopolitan, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 15—North Fitzroy, at North Fitzroy.
 Sept. 22—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
 Sept. 29—Warwick, at Richmond paddock.
 Oct. 6—Brunswick, at Brunswick.

TOORAK CLUB.

May 24—Northcote, at Croxton-park.
 May 26—Balaclava, at Windsor.
 June 2—East St. Kilda, at East St. Kilda.
 June 9—St. Kilda second twenty, at Toorak.
 June 16—Coast, at Elsternwick.
 June 23—Hawthorn second twenty, at Toorak.
 June 30—Warwick, at Richmond.
 July 7—Esplanade, at Toorak.
 July 14—Essendon second twenty, at Toorak.
 June 21—University, at Toorak.
 July 28—Balaclava, at Toorak.
 Aug. 4—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
 Aug. 11—Coast, at Toorak.
 Aug. 18—Warwick, at Toorak.
 Aug. 25—Northcote, at Toorak.
 Sept. 1—Essendon second twenty, at Essendon.
 Sept. 8—East St. Kilda, at Toorak.
 Sept. 15—Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
 Sept. 22—Keller, at Essendon.

Continued ...

Returning back to the article in which The Age announced the Carlton Imperial Football Club became part of the Hotham Football Club, to pick up on the match report, Melbourne v Hotham this is what The Age published about the game:

FOOTBALL.
MELBOURNE V. HOTHAM.

The meeting between these clubs on Saturday was the first important event of the season, and considerable interest was evinced in it from the fact that the newly formed Hotham Club was known to be exceptionally strong, as it has been constituted from a combination of the old North Melbourne and Carlton Imperial clubs. About four thousand people were present, and the result of the match fully warranted anticipation, for after a splendid struggle the honors were divided, each side having secured a goal. The encroachment of spectators nuisance, about which so much has been said and written in previous years, developed itself to an alarming extent on Saturday, and for the last half-hour of the play, when the ball was kept pretty well at the Hotham end, the crowd drew in to such a degree that the play took place within a line not more than thirty yards wide, and this gradually tapered off till about the middle of the ground an effectual barrier was interposed, so that play had to cease prior to the arranged time. The game commenced at twenty minutes past three, when Melbourne, having won the toss, decided to kick towards the Richmond end of the ground, the only advantage this gave them, as there was no wind, being that their opponents had a bright sun in their eyes. Traynor kicked off for Hotham, and the ball was returned by Sillett, Traynor in turn making a fine mark. A fine bit of play on the part of Longden sent the ball travelling towards the Hotham goal, near which directly afterwards the new rules were brought into operation by a free kick being given to Melbourne for a bit of slinging by a Hothamite. F. Baker then got a show for goal at about thirty-five yards, the result of a splendid mark, but failed, the ball being just stopped in goal. A fine bit of play by Bennie in the wing sent the ball right in front, where C. Baker was enabled to mark it about twenty-five yards off, and quietly propel it through from a place kick. First goal to Melbourne; time, ten minutes. Traynor again kicked off, and this time the ball got unpleasantly near Melbourne's inner defences. However, Longden

Continued ...

and Bennie managed to take it away from Traynor, Fuhrhop and Bruce, who were playing well. Then there was some good play in the centre for a while, after which the ball went speeding towards Hotham, where some fine play on the part of Moffat enabled F. Baker to make a good mark and send the ball behind. The ball was splendidly marked by Gardner from the kick-off, but a free kick allowed to Melbourne as he ran fully thirty yards with it. This sent the leather back to the Hotham end, where Subard was very busy, and out of an incipient scrimmage propelled it in front, where Downes made the best mark of the day, barely twenty yards off. Deliberately taking a place kick he very quietly did not put the ball through, but instead sent it fully twenty yards to one side. Then the ball was taken right away to the Melbourne end by a fine rush, Traynor being everywhere, and that player got a mark about sixty yards off, and from the resulting kick Sutcliffe had an opportunity within thirty yards of the post, but although he kicked straight did not lift sufficiently, and thus enabled the goalkeeper to do his duty. Within five minutes Traynor himself had a show at about forty yards, but a good deal to one side. He also failed, and Melbourne having escaped such threatening dangers, got the ball into the centre of the ground, where it principally remained till half-time. On resuming play and changing ends, Hotham went off with a great spurt, and it was soon evident to the supporters of Melbourne that their men would require to use their utmost efforts to stall off the determined attack. Everything was unavailing, however, and when Sutcliffe got a chance right in front, little more than twenty yards off, it was felt he would not repeat his previous mistake—nor did he. The game thus being equalised, it looked very much as if Hotham would get another goal, for they certainly at this stage were playing a great deal better than their opponents. Melbourne, seeing the necessity, succeeded by great efforts in repulsing the attack, and gradually the ball was forced back to the middle of the ground, where Forrester had been keeping sturdy guard all day. Thence it was sent on towards the Hotham end, from which it never departed more, for, even if Hotham had been equal to the task, they had no chance of doing it on account of the crowd. Neither side could do anything, for the ball was continually going out of bounds, and so the game was stopped. For Melbourne, Longden, Williams, the Bakers, Moffat, Bennie, Forrester, Subard and Cooke were most conspicuous; whilst amongst the Hothamites, Traynor was *facile princeps*, with Gardner, Fuhrhop, Bruce, Sutcliffe and Robertson as his most prominent supporters. Mr. D. Thomas acted as field umpire, and enforced the new rules with the most rigid impartiality.

From this account the following players were named for Hotham: Traynor, Fuhrhop, Bruce, Gardiner, Robertson, and Sutcliffe.

On Saturday the 25th August 1877, Hotham took on Carlton on their Madeline Street reserve ground located on what is now Swanston Street (North) and part of the Melbourne University.⁹⁶ Carlton were victors. Named in the game report for Hotham were their players, Ryan, Gardiner, Traynor, Robertson, Tracey and Grainger:⁹⁷

CARLTON V. HOTHAM.
The second meeting of these clubs took place on Saturday on the Carlton Reserve. Carlton was represented by a very strong team, amongst whom Donovan, the old captain of the club, was noticeable, whilst Hotham had two or three of its best men away. Hotham won the toss and determined to kick towards the southern goal, having the advantage of a very slight wind. The kick off served Carlton well, for almost directly they had the ball at the Hotham end, which, however, was well defended. For a while the play was chiefly about the centre of the ground, which apparently was rather slippery from the previous night's rain, for the efforts of both teams were of a scrambling nature. Every now and then the ball would be impelled Hotham-wards, where both Bracken and Smith had comparatively easy chances for goal. Then a good rush by Hotham took the ball the length of the ground, and Ryan getting a mark fully forty yards off, scored the first goal of the day from a fine place kick. This roused Carlton, and shortly after the recommencement of hostilities Donovan made a grand rush nearly the length of the ground, finishing up by sending the ball right into the arms of the goalkeeper. From this till half-time the play was all in favor of Carlton, which had in the persons of Murphy, Smith and Bracken various chances for goal, but unavailingly. Hotham made one good effort, in which some of the best play of the day was shown. Gardiner marked the ball splendidly in the centre of the ground, kicked to Traynor well forward, who also made a fine mark, and the latter then sent it right into goal, where, if the Hotham forwards had been lively, a goal would probably have resulted. The ball was kept round the end for a few minutes, and Sutcliffe got a free kick only fifteen yards off, for a breach of the rules, but carefully grubbed the ball. This danger past, Carlton got the ball back again, and Robertson made a rattling shot for goal from fully fifty yards, going close up. Half-time was now called, and a "batfoll of goals for Carlton," says a sympathizing bystander. The prediction was pretty correct, for from this out Carlton had quite its own way; and, besides having various chances, which were not productive, scored three goals from place kicks. The first was obtained by Bracken, from about forty yards. The same player then had a much easier chance, but kicked at right angles to the goal, where Kelly succeeded in marking the ball, and putting No. 2 to the credit of Carlton. Bracken also got the third goal from a little mark only twenty yards off. Carlton thus won by three goals to one. For Carlton Gunn, Bracken, M'Michael, Gour, M'Gill, Donovan and Murphy were noticeable by their exertions, the first-named especially distinguishing himself; whilst for Hotham Gardiner, Traynor, Robertson, Lacey and Grainger did their utmost to stem the tide of disaster. It should be noted that with the exception of the time they obtained the goal, Hotham did not once get the ball behind the Carlton end, whereas Carlton scored a dozen or fifteen behinds. Mr. J. Healy acted as central umpire. There were about 4000 people present.

⁹⁶ Sometimes referred to as "University Paddock," Madeline Street North Melbourne and perhaps probably first named University paddock prior to Carlton getting its own post office in 1863.

⁹⁷ CARLTON V. HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th August 1877, Page 13.

Two weeks later, on Saturday the 8th September 1877, Hotham Football Club showed it was to be a force to be reckoned with, defeating the Melbourne Football Club convincingly in front of a crowd of 7000 spectators at the MCG. Named to be among North's (Hotham) better player were: Boon, Slatter, Green, Smith, A. Sutcliffe, Traynor, Fuhrhop, Lacey, Gardiner, Dillon, and Knowles for the second-20 matched was the only Hotham player named against West Melbourne Football Club that same day:⁹⁸

SATURDAY'S SPORTS.	
FOOTBALL.	
The fine weather of last Saturday, and the interest in the football contest between the Melbourne and Hotham clubs, were sufficient to draw a crowd of about 7,000 persons to the metropolitan ground in Yarra-park to witness the match. On the last occasion this season when the same clubs met, the Melbourneites, who for some years past have been invincible to any colonial club excepting the Carlton, were very easily defeated by the Hotham players, who must now be regarded as almost, if not quite, on a par with those of the Melbourne and Carlton clubs. Although the defeat referred to was well known, it was also within the knowledge of those who take an interest in football that the Melbourne team have towards the latter end of the season considerably improved on the form they displayed in its earlier part of it, and that they may now be regarded as having recovered the position they so well maintained in years past. At the commencement of the game on Saturday the different sides were about equal favorites, the result being regarded as a very open one. Sillett, the Melbourne captain, who won the toss, elected to kick towards the eastern or Richmond end, the wind being slightly in favour of his adopting that course. The ball had not been started more than two minutes before Hotham rushed it to the Melbourne end, where one of them soon had a chance for goal through obtaining a mark, but the attempt was unsuccessful. The play was extremely good for some time afterwards, though it was too rough, and the exertions made by both teams showed that they were terribly in earnest. After about five minutes had elapsed the Melbourne men took the ball to their opponents' end, but Slatter, who got hold of it, made a splendid charge down the top side of the ground, and sent it back again three-quarters of the way to the Melbourne goal. It was, however, soon returned by Melbourne towards the Hotham goal, and again Slatter got hold of it, and by one of the most displays of running and dodging ever seen carried it right across the ground through the combatants, amid the loud cheers of the spectators. The play of Hotham for the first half-hour was magnificent, and conveyed the impression that they were decidedly the best team. They were frequently applauded for their skill and activity, the mode in which they manoeuvred the ball out of a scrimmage and carried it off towards the Melbourne end whenever it had got towards the Hotham goal being especially remarkable. They were, however, too fond of snagging the ball when it was in the midst of a scrimmage, and Green, one of their men, paid dearly for that kind of play, as his fingers were kicked and injured so severely that he had to retire during the course of the afternoon. When the game had been on for about half an hour C. Baker, of Melbourne, obtained a mark about 50 yards in front of goal, and, from a place kick, sent the ball clean through the posts, thus obtaining first score for Melbourne. From	that time out the local team were more of a match for the visitors than they had been previously, and showed better lasting power, but the sides were still so evenly matched that it was considered anybody's game. Hotham got the ball towards the Melbourne end and directly after the goal referred to was obtained, and Smith, of Hotham, had a nice opportunity of scoring from a mark he obtained near the goal. He, however, failed, and the local players rushed the ball towards the Hotham end, but A. Sutcliffe, who was stationed near goal, and was exceedingly active throughout the afternoon, stopped it, and by a nice run carried it back again towards the middle of the ground. The Hotham players showed to great advantage during the match by the clever manner in which they gave each other marks, and the way they passed to each other. They also had a smart knock when a heavy scrimmage occurred, and even when only three or four players were together, of slipping the ball behind their legs to a comrade, who in most instances took it cleverly, and rushed off with it in the direction he wanted it to go. C. Baker had several chances to make goal for Melbourne when the play had been on about three-quarters of an hour, but none of them were easy, and none of the attempts made were successful. The play of Hotham still appeared to be the best, and Traynor, Fuhrhop, Lacey, Gardiner, A. Sutcliffe, and Slatter, as well as other men on their side, frequently elicited applause, but they were unfortunate, and Melbourne soon had another goal to their credit. Booth, of Melbourne, who is evidently one of the best footballers out this season, made a mark cleverly about the centre of the ground, and by a good kick drove the ball up towards the Hotham goal. It was sent back a little, and then as quickly taken forward towards the side of the goal, where C. Baker played splendidly for the possession of it against two Hothamites, got it from them, and by a nice side kick, some 10 yards from goal, scored number two for his club before half-time was called. Directly afterwards Bennie, whom everybody was glad to see back again in the field, had a long chance at goal, and kicked the ball well between the posts, but the goal-keeper stopped it, and so prevented the third success for Melbourne. Half time then arrived, and when the rest was over and play resumed, the same earnestness was displayed as in the first part of the game. During the latter half, however, the Melbourneites showed the best form, but that they were not much superior to their opponents was evidenced by the fact that no more goals were obtained. Moffatt, of Melbourne, displayed excellent marking capabilities. Booth, Sillett, Bennie, Scorrard, Houston, and Lamrock were as active and efficient as it was possible to be, and so were many of the Hotham players. Dillon, of Hotham, had two good chances for goal, but he kicked badly for both and missed them, and the match was eventually closed in favour of Melbourne by two goals to none for Hotham. The play was as rough in the latter half of the game as in the first, and Melbourne lost two of their men towards the close of the afternoon. Anthony

Continued ...

⁹⁸ SATURDAY'S SPORTS, FOOTBALL, MELBOURNE V HOTHAM, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th September 1877, Page 6.

had to be carried on the ground with the small bone of his leg broken, just above the ankle, and Webb was obliged to retire in consequence of receiving a severe wound to the eye in a collision. A fortnight before, on the same ground, Johnson, of Melbourne, had his collar-bone broken, and only on Friday last, in a game amongst the University students, one of the players had his knee put out. So many accidents should lead footballers to consider whether the rules of the game cannot be further altered, so as to stop the rough and dangerous playing which generally prevails. In the match on Saturday afternoon Mr. T. Power, a good judge of the game, acted as central umpire, and the roughness was no fault of his, as he impartially inflicted the usual penalties for breaches of the rules, but no central umpire can prevent serious accidents if the play is continued as it is now carried on.

CAMPERDOWN AND COLAC COMBINED V. GEELONG FIRST TWENTY.—In a match between the Geelong First Twenty and a combined team from Colac and Camperdown, played at Geelong on Saturday last, the former won easily, kicking 11 goals, whilst their opponents did not secure one. Morrison captained the visitors, and Down the local team.

ESSENDON V. NORTHCOTE.—This match resulted in an easy victory for the former, who scored four goals to their opponents' nil. The Essendon had numerous other chances for goal besides those obtained, whilst the ball was not once behind their own posts. James Miller and Amess greatly distinguished themselves for Essendon, and Wynne, Swanson, and Walker played well for Northcote.

A match took place in the Royal-park on Saturday between the Hotham United and West Melbourne clubs, the two leading junior football clubs in Melbourne, and after a fluky game it resulted in a victory for the West Melbourne, who got one goal (by Barnes), the kick being fully 60 yards. The game need hardly be described further than saying this was the only chance the West Melbourne had. The Hotham United from the beginning had far and away the best of the play all through, they having shot after shot at the goal, but luck was dead against them. A goal was kicked for them by Knowles as most of the spectators and players thought, but the umpire gave it against them. The West Melbourne had the ball only three times behind their opponents' goal twice in the first half (including the goal), whilst the Hotham United had it no less than 20 times behind the West Melbourne goal.

The following football matches were also played on Saturday afternoon, with the results stated :—Richmond Standard v. South Yarra Standard, won by the latter by three goals to two ; Toorak v. East St. Kilda, won by former by three goals, kicked by Springthorpe, M'Lellan, and Munro, to none by the latter ; Excelsior v. Victorian Railways, won by former with five goals to none ; Esplanade v. South Yarra, won by former with two goals, kicked by Cordner and Lynott, to none by South Yarra.

Posthumous recognition given here to the North Melbourne Football Club leaders of 1876/1877 who ensured by their collective action North Melbourne football Club would continue and flourish as a founding VFA club despite the turmoil inflicted on the club by Albert Park's action pre-season 1876:

- McIndoe, John (Hon Secretary).
- Gardiner; James Henry (Hon Treasurer).
- Burdick, William (Team Secretary Second-20 – Taken to be coach).
- McLean (General Committee Member).
- Fuhrhop (General Committee Member).
- Robertson (General Committee Member).
- Dellitt (General Committee Member).
- Slattery (General Committee Member).

1878

Former North Melbourne ruckman 93-year-old Charlie Warner (b1856-Alive in 1949) was visited by North Melbourne Captain Lez Foote in 1949 to reminisce about Charlie playing for North as Hotham United in 1878: ⁹⁹



⁹⁹ "RUCKMAN OF THE PAST! THAT WAS ME IN 1878" Interview with Mr. Charlie Warner, The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday, September 17th 1949, Page 1.

The Carlton v Hotham match played on Saturday July 29th 1878 at the MCG attracted a crowd of 5000 spectators. Named for Hotham and playing in 1878 season in the article below are: Grainger; Traynor; Waldron; O'Brien; Byrne; Green; McLean and Bruce:¹⁰⁰

CARLTON V. HOTHAM.

The match between these clubs on Saturday drew close on 5000 people to the Melbourne cricket ground, in despite the damp cold afternoon. Both clubs had strong teams, but the sloppy state of the turf rendered brilliant play almost impossible, for in addition to the difficulty of locomotion the ball soon got very wet and heavy. The result of the match was a victory for Carlton, who secured two goals to their opponents' one. Play began at a quarter past three, and in about five minutes Carlton had scored two behinds. Then Gunn gave G. Robertson a little mark, and the former player, by great smartness, secured the ball from Robertson's kick, and had a good show for goal. The ball was got away to the centre, but was soon back again, and Murphy, out of a scrimmage, sent it flying behind. After the kick off Grainger impelled it to the Carlton end for the first time, and a fierce struggle ensued in front of the goal. Worked to the middle, it got back again, and Hotham scored a behind in their turn, it being the only one they obtained in this half, for thenceforward the ball was generally at the other side of the ground. Directly after this gleam of sunshine for Hotham the ball travelled to their end, and Carlton obtained another behind. Then Traynor showed fine play, and made a good mark and kick, but it was unavailing, as Gardiner rushed the ball back, and despite the efforts of M'Lean, Henry got it near at hand and sent it in front to Gunn, who gave Richards a little mark, about thirty-five yards off, and at a slight angle. Richards took a place kick, and skilfully piloted the ball through, Carlton then scoring first goal after forty minutes' play. On being kicked off for Hotham by Robertson the ball was marked by Coalhard, who made a very dashy run across the ground, but did not do as much service as if he had kicked at once. However, the play speedily gravitated to the Hotham end, and Carlton, for whom J. Robertson was doing great work, got another behind, this being followed directly after by Richards making a fine mark, and, kicking immediately, the ball went through, but was touched in transitu. Half-time was then called. Throughout this first half the Hotham were noticeable for the manner in which they played for the man and not for the ball, and these tactics accounted in a great measure for the great disadvantage they were at. On resuming play, after ten minutes' intermission, Hotham still played in the same style, and M'Dill rushed the ball right up and kicked a behind. Robertson kicked off right in front, and Neachen marked it at about forty yards, and had no difficulty in sending it through, thus putting goal No. 2 to the credit of Carlton, after eight minutes' play. Fahrop kicked off from the centre, and Coalhard, who played back throughout, made a good rush, being stopped by running out of bounds in front of the pavilion. Goer, however, marked the ball in front directly after, but from an easy chance could only get a behind. Some more good play by Carlton at the Hotham end, in which Kelly, G. Robertson, Turnbull and Gunn were conspicuous, the latter from a fine mark sending the ball right into goal, another behind being obtained immediately. Hotham's turn now came, and they entirely changed the aspect of the game, for from this on

June 29, 1878.

the play was entirely at the Carlton end. M'Lean, who had been playing back, at this juncture came forward, and his example seemed to stimulate the Hotham in a remarkable manner. The ball having been worked to the Carlton half of the ground through the very skilful play of Green and M'Lean, the latter, by a good kick, enabled O'Brien to make a fine mark at fully forty yards, and he, from a place kick, which soared very high, secured a goal for Hotham twenty minutes after resuming, amidst great cheering. Byrne next, by a fine kick, the result of a good mark, enabled O'Brien to make a very fine mark close to the place where he got the other, but this time he failed to get the goal, and managed to get a behind only. Then to the middle for a bit, Carlton doing their utmost, but being quite overpowered at this period, and the ball went back again by the aid of Traynor. Waldron took it off, but Lacey got hold of it, and gave Traynor a little mark. He passed it on to Bruce in front, and the latter kicked another behind. A fine bit of play by Gunn enabled Carlton to take the ball to the Hotham end, where, however, it did not stay long, for Bruce sent it forward again. Turnbull and Goer then tried to change the aspect of affairs, but Hotham Robertson rushed the ball back again, and Ryan, from a little mark, punted it straight up in front. Away again, Paterson on the wing sent it forward once more, and then out of a scrimmage the ball rolled behind at the Carlton end. Gunn and Goer showed good play after this, and then time was called, the ball being on the right wing at the Carlton end. For Hotham—M'Lean, Green, O'Brien, Traynor and Robertson showed the best play. On the Carlton side the play was so even that it is difficult to pick any out for special mention, but Gunn, Goer, Kelly, Richards, J. Robertson and Turnbull did an immense amount of work.

¹⁰⁰ CARLTON V. HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th June 1878, Page 12.

1879

By 1879, the football club had taken control of the original lease, ensuring its survival amidst competition from various clubs in the Royal Park area. Despite the challenges, it is unlikely that North Melbourne would have faced extinction, as other clubs found to be playing in the greater Royal Park from 1864¹⁰¹ – Carlton, Carlton Imperial, Royal Park Football Club and North Park Football Club - would have quickly sought to fill any tenancy vacancy on what was then a state-of-the-art ground constructed for the North Melbourne Cricket Club come North Melbourne Football Club.

The historical record of continuous tenancy and attested in game operations continuous in the form of local scratch matches from 1860 to 1869, punctuated by the occasional inter club games mentioned in contemporary newspapers between 1861-1869 highlights the club's sustained presence. This is so, although the lack of media coverage during that period may have led to misconceptions about pauses in football and the previously addressed false claims of club discontinuation.¹⁰²

On Tuesday 1st July 1879 the first-ever intercolonial representative match, game one of two, was held on a public holiday at East Melbourne Cricket Ground.¹⁰³ Both games were umpired by James Slight.¹⁰⁴



The Victorian team was represented by the following player: John Gardiner (Captain), Carlton; George Coulthard, Carlton; Paddy Gunn, Carlton; Millar (TBD); Herbert Bryant, Essendon; William Goer, Carlton; Robert Sillett, Melbourne; **Frank Lording, Hotham**; G.V. Cooke (TBD), **Billy McLean, Hotham**; Harry Downes, Melbourne; Minchin (TBD); **Jimmy Robertson, Hotham**; Thomas (TBD); J. Gibson, South Melbourne; **Arthur Ley, Hotham**; Young, South Melbourne; Murphy, Carlton; Rannard, West Melbourne, Mackenzie (TBD).

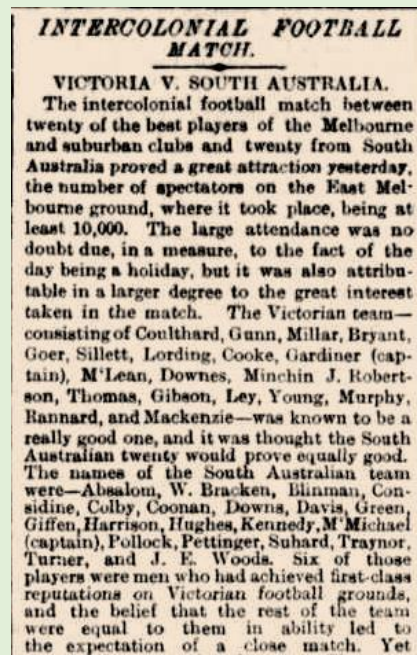
¹⁰¹ Ibid, Frost, L, 1998, p3.

¹⁰² Cf., Halabi, A., Frost, L., & Lightbody, M. 2012, Football History Off the Field: Utilising Archived Accounting Reports to Challenge "Myths" About the History of an Australian Football Club. *Accounting History*, 17 (1), 63 - 81.

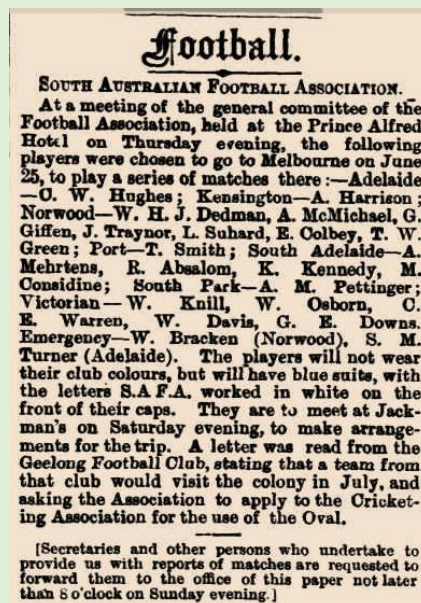
¹⁰³ Engraving of the first intercolonial Australian football match between Victoria and South Australia, published in the *Australasian Sketcher*, 1879, State Library of Victoria.

¹⁰⁴ FOOTBALL, South Australia v Victoria, *The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 7th July 1879, Page 3.

Billy Bracken, ex-Victorian and North Melbourne and Carlton player represented South Australia after transferring from Carlton to Norwood before the start of the 1897/98 seasons.¹⁰⁵



The first game was umpired according to VFA rules and the second by the rules of the South Australian Association. They only differed in one regard, which was then also considered remarkable, the South Australian rules allowed for slinging (tackling) around the neck. Considered by all at the venue for second game to be extremely dangerous.¹⁰⁶ The final score for the first game was Victoria, represented by the Victorian Football Association, 7.14.56 points to South Australia 0.3.3 points. The match was attended by more than 10,000 people:¹⁰⁷

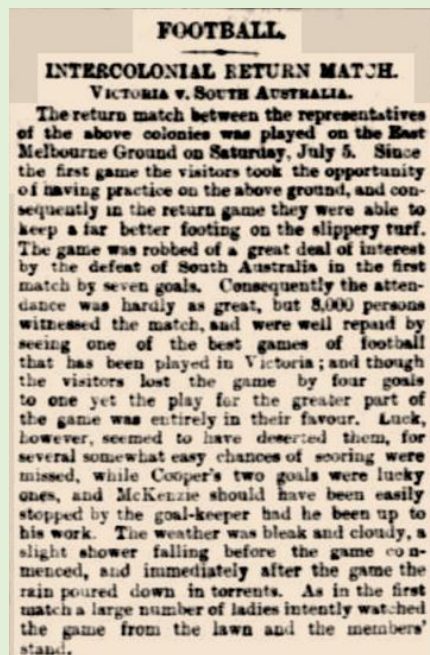


¹⁰⁵ INTERCOLONIAL FOOTBALL MATCH, The Argus Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 2nd July 1879, Page 5.

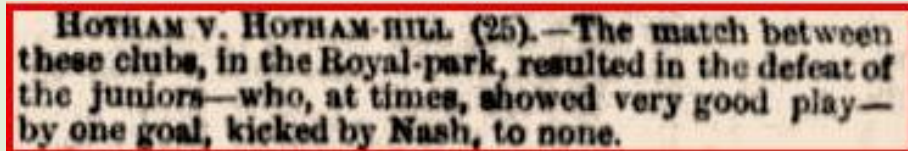
¹⁰⁶ FOOTBALL, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 12th July 1879, Page 12.

¹⁰⁷ FOOTBALL, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, Adelaide Observer, South Australia, Saturday 7th June 1879, Page 5.

Victoria also defeated South Australia in the return encounter at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground on the following Saturday defeating the visitors, 4 goals to one goal: ¹⁰⁸



Following on from the historical intercolonial, *come* interstate matches, was scanty account of Hotham's defeat of a gallant junior club, and neighbours, Hotham Hill. The latter club permitted to play 25 players the previous Saturday 12th July 1879. Named for Hotham Football Club was player Nash who kicked the solitary goal: ¹⁰⁹



A limited fixture for July 1879 is shown below recognising North's first-20 team called Hotham is scheduled to play West Melbourne FC in Royal Park and the second-20 with the relic name Hotham United to play Clifton [Hill] FC also in Royal Park [mine]: ¹¹⁰



¹⁰⁸ FOOTBALL, Victoria v South Australia, South Australian Register, Adelaide, SA, Saturday 12th July 1879, Page 7.

¹⁰⁹ FOOTBALL GOSSIP, by Peter Pindar, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th July 1879, Page 12.

¹¹⁰ The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th July 1879, Page 12.

Found in the Sunbury News on Saturday the 25th June 1892 was a wealth of information regarding the Sunbury Football Club's activities, featuring an engaging football article that will surely delight enthusiasts of Australian rules football history. This article is unique in that it visually illustrates player positions and the layout of the rectangular ground combined with the oval shape that was during that period still prevalent outside the VFA competition.¹¹¹



¹¹¹ FOOTBALL, The Sunbury News, Victoria, Saturday 25th June 1892, Page 3.

On Saturday the 7th June 1879, Hotham took on West Melbourne on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground (EMCG) in front of a relatively small crowd in account of the large crowd witnessing the Carlton v Melbourne clash at the MCG. West Melbourne won by 14 points kicking 2 goals 13 behinds, 25 points to Hotham 0 goals, 9 behinds, 9 points: ¹¹²

WEST MELBOURNE V. HOTHAM.—These clubs met for the first time this season on the East Melbourne cricket-ground on Saturday afternoon, a charge of col. being made for admission; but as the Melbourne and Carlton were playing on the Melbourne cricket-ground, the attendance was very limited. Both sides were well represented, and the friends of each fully confident of success. Hotham won the toss, and kicked to the south goal, with the assistance of a light wind. Barnes for West Melbourne kicked off, and the West, rallying at the start, took the ball up to the Hotham goal, and put it behind four times in succession, but were unfortunate in their shots for goal. Hotham then forced the play, and took the ball to the other end, to no further purpose, however, than a behind, the fine back play of Thewlis and splendid marking of Douglas preventing anything but a hurried shot at goal. The ball was then taken well forward by Cussen, and returned by Ley, of Hotham, who was playing in fine style back, but West Melbourne were not to be denied, and again rallying took the ball forward to the Hotham end, where Johnson, by a splendid running kick, scored first goal for them just as half-time was called. The ball on being thrown up was taken by Yates, and by a nice run sent forward to the Hotham goal, where Hulme and Paterson struggled for the mastery, the outcome being a behind to the West by Hulme. Play was confined to the Hotham end for some time, and then Ley and Lording took the ball away, and Taylor scored a behind for Hotham, who had the best of the play for about 10 or 15 minutes. Pullen and Cussen then took the ball again to the Hotham end, where Cody marked, and passed it on to Page, and he to Ransard, who kicked it neatly through, scoring second goal for the West amid great rejoicing. Play still continued in the Hotham end, Barnes and Beeching distinguishing themselves by some long shots for goal, but to no avail, and soon after time was called, the game resulting—West Melbourne, two goals, 13 behinds; Hotham, nine behinds. For West Melbourne—Thewlis and Douglas back, Fitzgerald and Cussen on the wings, Yates and Beeching in the centre, and Ransard and Johnson following—played in fine style all through the game; and for Hotham—Ley and Pughrop back, Lording and Taylor on the wings, and Robertson and O'Brien forward—rendered most service.

Listed above as prominent players for Hotham that day were: Ley, Pullen, Fuhrhop, Lording, Taylor, Robertson and O'Brien.

With further evidence of the interchangeable use of Hotham's come North Melbourne names in the first years of the VFA by football writers, the Alberts, also occasionally known as the "Parkies," won in a tight match scoring in the last minutes the only goal of the game but leading by massing many behinds. The final scores were, Albert Park, 1 goal, 15 behinds, 21 points to Hotham United, 0 goals, 2 behinds, 2 points. A comfortable 19-point victory for the Alberts. Named for Hotham were Bickford, Badcock and Shaw. Bickford and Shaw being formed first-20 players and club stalwarts for the North Melbourne Football Club: ¹¹³

ALBERT PARK V. HOTHAM UNITED.—These clubs met on the South Melbourne Cricket-ground on Saturday afternoon, when an interesting match was played, which resulted in favour of the local team. The first half of the game was well contested, although the Alberts secured six behinds to the United's one. The second half was similar to the first, both sides working hard to secure a victory, yet there was a continual fusillade of the Hotham United's goals, but without avail, until near the finish, when H. Rosser secured the only goal for the Alberts by a fine kick. The game resulted in a win for the local club by one goal and 15 behinds to the United's two behinds. Thomas, Minchin, and Young played well for the Alberts, and Bickford, Badcock, and Shaw for the United.

¹¹² SATURDAY'S SPORTS, West Melbourne d Hotham, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 9th June 1879, Page 3.

¹¹³ SATURDAY'S SPORTS, Albert Park v Hotham United, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 9th June 1879, Page 3.

On Saturday, June 26th 1879, Hotham travelled to Ballarat to face the VFA team, the local newspaper acknowledging Hotham as one of the top metropolitan clubs in VFA and noting their easy victory over Ballarat Football Club.

Remarkably, Hotham played without four key players: Pattison, McLean, Robertson, and Kerwin. Henry Fuhrhop, who served as Captain since 1869—except for a brief absence in 1871 when he played for Carlton—returned to lead North again in 1872. He stepped down as captain of North's first-20 side in 1876 when he was one of 12 players who defected but resumed his captaincy with the shinboners in 1877. Other players recognised for strong performances for Hotham included Neely, O, Ley, Sutcliffe, and Butt,¹¹⁴ Walker, Shaw, Waldron, Gardiner and O'Neill:¹¹⁵

FOOTBALL.

The best and most exciting match of the season was played on Saturday on the Saxon Paddock, between the first twenties of the Ballarat and Hotham Football Clubs. The latter hold a first-class position amongst the metropolitan clubs, therefore an easy victory was anticipated for them, but, contrary to expectations, the Ballarat managed to make a draw, Hotham obtaining three behinds to two of Ballarat, although Ballarat had several shots for goal which fell short. The visitors' team was weakened by the absence of four of their best players, viz. Pattison, M'Lean, Robertson, and Kerwin. Ballarat also felt the loss of Nettle, Ham, O'Connor, and Mungovan. Sides were captained by Fuhrhop and Cooper for Hotham and Ballarat respectively. The former, winning the toss, elected to kick eastward, having a moderately strong wind in his favor. After a deal of delay the leather was set in motion by Kirby, for Ballarat, at about 4 o'clock, brought down by Sutcliffe in fine style to the Ballarat end, where things looked rather lively for some time, the Hotham forwards, Neely and O'Brien, being very aggressive. Major soon relieved his goal of any danger by carrying the leather up the north wing to Cooper and Walker, quickly sent back by Ley and Sutcliffe to Batt, who, obtaining a mark, sent it well forward, when out of a scrimmage Neely kicked it behind. On being kicked off Henderson, well backed by Kirby, sent it close up to Hotham quarters, where Taylor and Greenwood endeavored to give and take "little marks." Ley and Sutcliffe, however, worked very hard to relieve their goal from danger, and sent the leather to

Gardiner, who carried it once more into enemy's quarters. O'Brien had a shot, but only scored second behind for Hotham. Up to half-time the play was principally along the south wing, Walker, Shaw, and Waldron for Hotham, and Jackson, Sherard, and Mills for Ballarat doing yeoman service. On resuming, a fine charge by Hotham, headed by Gardiner and Batt, landed the ball with Sutcliffe at the west end, but Bradley, bringing him to earth, carried it along the south wing, where some very fast play ensued, Jackson sending it to Crow, thence to Kirby, who had a long shot, but fell short. The play of the Ballarat now became a treat to witness Henderson, Cooper, Parsons, and Kirby passing the leather from one to another in fine style, the Hotham backs bravely endeavoring to relieve their stronghold, their vigilance being powerless to prevent Kirby and Crow trying for goals, but without success. A brilliant rally of Hotham carried the leather up the north wing, Waldron and Batt being to the fore; out of a scrimmage near the Ballarat posts Neely kicked it through, but the ball touching a Ballarat player in transit third behind was scored. Up to time some very fine play was shown about the centre, M'Gregor, Clarke, and Parsons being conspicuous. The ground, on account of the recent heavy rains, was very wet and slippery, the lower portion being completely under water. For Hotham Gardiner, Ley, and Shaw were specially conspicuous, and Batt, Neely, Sutcliffe, Fuhrhop, Waldron, and O'Neill rendered useful service. For Ballarat Cooper and Henderson played a grand game. Jackson, Mills, Sherard, Major, Fuley, Parsons, and Clarke are also deserving of mention. Mr R. Angus performed the onerous duties of central umpire with his accustomed ability.

The Footballer 1879

ANALYSES FOR 1879.

Name of Club.	Made.	Went.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals Won.	Goals Lost.
ALBERT PARK	15	9	3	3	30	9
ALBERT PARK BRIDGE	11	11	1	3	17	17
CARLTON	22	16	4	3	80	17
CARLTON BRIDGE	19	5	5	3	14	25
EMERSON	17	8	6	3	30	30
EMERSON BRIDGE	17	9	2	3	30	3
HOTHAM	22	11	2	3	18	30
MELBOURNE	16	11	5	5	42	30
MELBOURNE BRIDGE	18	14	4	1	24	13
SOUTH MELBOURNE	19	11	4	4	29	29
WEST MELBOURNE	19	11	4	4	29	29
BALLARAT COLLEGE	7	3	3	1	11	7
CARLTON COLLEGE	7	3	3	1	19	8
HAWTHORN GRAMMAR SCHOOL	4	4	1	1	17	15
KEM HILL SCHOOL	8	3	3	2	20	8
SOUTHERN COLLEGE	8	3	3	2	20	8

¹¹⁴ Error naming Sam Butt, player "Batt" corrected.

¹¹⁵ FOOTBALL, The Ballarat Star, Victoria, Monday 28th June 1880, Page 4.

The football club branch is granted legal control over the cricket club

The year 1879 further gave rise to an historical event between the North Melbourne Cricket Club and the Football Club, whereby their relationship underwent a significant shift. The cricket club, established in 1855,¹¹⁶ long seeing itself as the mother club since raising the football club in 1859, found the parent-child relationship overturned legally.

It all began after the cricket club was bailed out financially by the football club. Initially since 1860 they shared the same ground in Royal Park until 1874 when the cricket club took control of Hotham Recreation Reserve, known as Arden Street Oval. The football club remained playing its games in Royal Park.

However, by 1879, a dispute arose as the football club once seen as the junior partner, gained wealth and status as a VFA elite metropolitan club, allowing it to retire the cricket club's debt and secure its own independence. Despite the inverted hierarchical change to their legal association, social tensions persisted, with both clubs operating parallel—the football club continuing to play at Royal Park and holding meetings at St Mary's Church of England school room, and the cricket club remaining at Hotham Recreation Reserve.

The present author suspects the paradigm shift which occurred on the 7th June 1879 when Carlton FC and Melbourne FC played on the full cricket circle come oval, the football club was hit with the reality that the Royal Park rectangular ground was no longer fit for purpose.

Perhaps the football administrators made prudent steps to settle the cricket clubs' debts in 1879 knowing full well it also gave them control over the cricket club and learning further subsequently they could secure the oval at Arden Street.

Social relationship between the two clubs after the debt was paid was strained. Regardless, by June 1882, however, a resolution was reached, and the football club assumed both legal and social control over the cricket club, leading to the football club playing all its home games at Hotham Recreational Reserve and living under the same roof so to speak in relative harmony.¹¹⁷



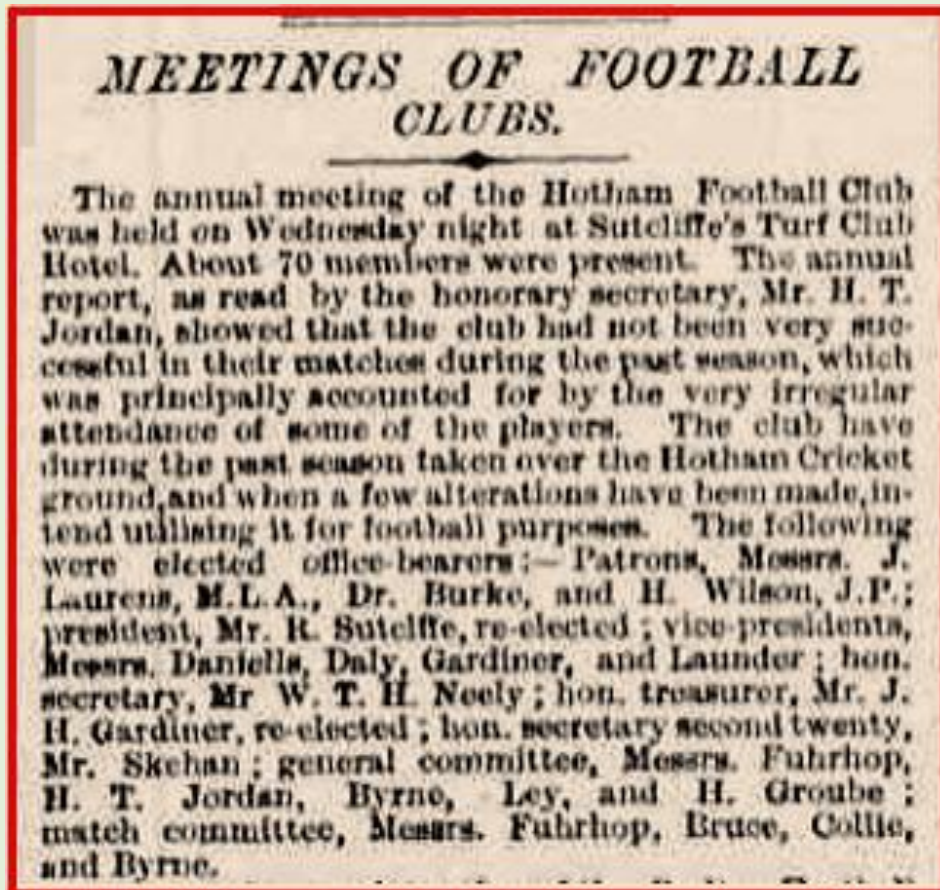
¹¹⁶ Ibid Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., "North Melbourne" by F.M., The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.

¹¹⁷ NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB RIGHTS TO ARDEN STREET OVAL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 29th July 1936, Page 12.

1880

In 1880, H.T. Jordan served the secretary of the North Melbourne Football Club, known as Hotham, for the 1879 season. He resigned after reviewing the minutes or was defeated in an election by Mr W.T.H. Neely, who became the football club secretary for the 1880 season. Not, the article confirms that in 1879, the football club had legally taken over the Hotham Cricket Ground and intended to use it for football purposes after making a few alterations:"

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Named also above are the following elected office-bearers: Patrons, Messrs. J. Laurens, M.L.A., Dr. Burke, and H. Wilson, J. P. Club President elect 1880 was Mr. R. [Richard] Sutcliffe, re-elected. Elected as the club's Vice-Presidents, were Messrs, Daniells, Daly, J.H. Gardiner, and Mr. Launder. Elected in 1880 as the clubs Honorary Secretary was Mr W. T. H. Neely; ditto Honorary Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Gardiner, re-elected. Voted by members to continue as the second-20 coach was Mr. Skehan [team secretary, second-20]. Elected as general committee members were Messrs H. Fuhrhop, H. T. Jordan, and Messrs Byrne, Ley, and H. Groube; and the match committee for season 1880 were Messrs, Fuhrhop, Bruce, Collie, and Byrne.

¹¹⁸ MEETINGS OF FOOTBALL CLUBS, "HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB," The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 5th April 1880, Page 7.

The practice match between Hotham United second-20 fielding 23 players and Carlton's first 20 played Saturday 8th May 1880 is submitted below recognising Crossby, Craig and Buncle played well: ¹¹⁹

FOOTBALL.

Carlton v. Hotham United (23).—The weather on Saturday was not at all suitable for football, the rain which fell in the early part of the day rendering the ground sloppy, whilst in the afternoon a high wind prevailed. The match between the first twenty of Carlton and the Hotham United attracted a considerable number of spectators, notwithstanding the cold weather. The ball was not kicked off until about twenty minutes to four o'clock, and the Carlton, having the benefit of the wind behind them, at once laid siege to their opponents' goal, at which they had constant shots. The wind appeared to baffle them, and although several chances were obtained, they failed to score until Gunn, by a good running kick, sent the ball fairly between the posts. Twice after that the posts were struck, and once the ball was stopped in goal, but Coulthard then scored the second goal. The result of the first half was two goals and fourteen behinds, the Hotham United during that time never getting the ball beyond the centre. Despite the fact that they had the wind against them, the Carlton, in commencing the second half again placed their opponents' goal in danger, and secured three more behinds, one of them being the result of a very good kick for goal by Wilson. The Hotham United then got the ball down to the other end, and obtained two behinds. For Carlton, Wilson, Coulthard, Spear, Bragge and Gunn all played well; whilst for the Hotham United the play of Crossby, Craig and Buncle, was most noticeable.

The second of two practice matches which involved Hotham's first-20 senior team playing 23 players from the Young Victorians recognised contributions from Hotham's players, Bayley, O'Neil, Gardiner, Fuhrhop, Bickford, Shaw, Walker, Pattison, and Neely: ¹²⁰

Hotham v. Young Victorians (23).—Hotham played the first half with the wind in their favor, and had seven ineffectual shots. During the second half Hotham scored one goal, kicked by Bayley. O'Neil, Gardiner, Fuhrhop, Bickford, Shaw, Walker, Pattison and Neely played well up for the seniors.

¹¹⁹ FOOTBALL, CARLTON v HOTHAM UNITED [second-20 x 23 player], The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th May 1880, Page 4.

¹²⁰ FOOTBALL, HOTHAM [first-20] v YOUNG VICTORIANS [x 23 player], The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th May 1880, Page 4.

Hotham first-20 team playing Melbourne Football Club season proper on Saturday 29th May 1880, list the following players selected for the firsts that day: Butt, Bayley, Bruce, Bickford, Byrne, Cooper, Fuhrhop (Captain), Gardiner, Ley, Medway, McLean, Neely, Owens, O'Neil, O'Brien, Paterson, James Robertson, Shaw, Tomlins, Walker and Waldron:

THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The most interesting football match to be played this afternoon will be that between the Melbourne and Hotham Clubs. As the latter team played so well in the match with Geelong on the Queen's Birthday, the match to-day is expected to give an idea as to the chances the Melbourne Club will have when they meet the premier club of the colony. The match to-day will be played on the Melbourne cricket-ground. Melbourne will be represented by J. Adams, D. Aitken, C. Baker, F. Baker, J. Bennie, R. Booth, W. Boys, B. C. Lamrock, E. Longden, W. Longden, J. Macdonald, M. Mackenzie, J. G. M'Kie, F. Nash, F. Power, W. H. Roberts, E. A. Smart, C. H. Swyer, J. F. Watson, A. Young; emergencies, C. Cock, E. Silvester. The following is the Hotham team:—Messrs. Butt, Bayley, Bruce, Bickford, Byrne, Cooper, Fuhrhop (captain), Gardiner, Ley, Medway, M'Lean, Neely, Owens, O'Neil, O'Brien, Paterson, Jas. Robertson, Shaw, Tomlins, Walker, and Waldron.

Below is a general summary of the match played between these two clubs: ¹²¹

FOOTBALL NOTES. BY MARK. The match between Hotham and Melbourne on Saturday last was a very fine one, and the grand play of Hotham would undoubtedly have occasioned surprise had it not been that on the previous Monday they proved to Geelong that they could not be trifled with. At the outset I confess I expected Melbourne to win, but after the first few minutes' play I would not have been at all surprised if the contest had ended in an easy victory for Hotham. The team sent into the field by Melbourne certainly appeared on paper to be a very strong one, but then Melbourne can never be relied on. If it be true that there is a charm in uncertainty, then the play of Melbourne can fairly be termed charming. In the first hour's play on Saturday they were scarcely ever in the game, and Hotham were	continually shooting for goal. Fortunately for Melbourne they did not succeed, and in the second half the red and blues had a good opportunity to retrieve themselves in a measure. It cannot, however, be said that their play was equal to that of Hotham. The game was a good one in consequence of the spurt made in the second half by Melbourne, but Hotham played with more judgment, always kicking when they had a chance instead of trying to effect runs, like their opponents. It is a pity that when two such fine teams are pitted against one another the weather is not more propitious. The recent rains had rendered the Melbourne Cricket Ground unfit for the game. Under the circumstances it would have been better for the sake of football to have played the game outside, but then the gate money was too much of a temptation, and the contest took place inside.
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¹²¹ FOOTBALL NOTES, MELBOURNE V HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Saturday 5th June 1880, Page 13.

Aged then in 1880, was 20-year-old William Langford Guest (1860-1922) who played for North's first-20- team Hotham in the match between East Melbourne Football Club on Saturday 10th July 1880 on the Richmond Cricket Ground (Punt Road). Will is the present authors grand uncle: ¹²² ¹²³ ¹²⁴

THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The principal football match to be played this afternoon will be that between the Carlton and Melbourne Clubs, on the East Melbourne Cricket Club's ground. The following will represent Carlton:—Messrs. E. Barrasa, G. Bragge, E. Brooks, G. Browning, G. Coulthard, A. Coventry, C. Donovan, A. Ford, R. Frayne, W. Goer, F. Gunn, B. Murphy, C. Nudd, H. O'Donnell, Jas. Rickards, G. Robertson, J. Robertson, G. Smith, F. Spear, H. Wilson; Mr. T. Chadwick, central umpire. The Melbourne team will be composed of—Messrs. J. Adams, F. Baker, J. Bennie, B. Booth, W. Boys, H. J. Downes, F. C. Lamrock, E. W. Longden, W. Longden, Jas. M. Macdonald, Jno. Macdonald, W. Manifold, J. G. M'Kie, T. Nash, F. Power, W. H. Roberts, R. Sibley, E. Silvester, R. Simson, J. F. Watson; emergencies, E. A. Smart, A. Oliver, A. Young.

South Melbourne and Essendon will play at Essendon. The following will represent South Melbourne, who are requested to leave the Post-office at half-past 2 p.m.:—Messrs. Addison, Brown, Gibson (captain), Griffiths, Hutton, Horan, Haines, Hopkinson, Kellett, Lorraine, Latchford, Minchin, Moad, C. Rosser, J. Rosser, Slatter, Spain, Thomas (vice-captain), Young, and Wells; emergencies—H. Rosser and Fullarton. The Essendon team will be chosen from—Bryant, Bloomfield, Carter (two), Coldham, Graham, Hughes, James, Martin, Miller, M'Arthur, M'Cracken, M'Harg, M'Intosh, M'Shane, M'Donald, Powell (captain), Raper, Rogers, Sims, Walker, Watt.

West Melbourne will play Geelong on the ground of the latter. The West Melbourne team will be composed of Barnes, Beeching, Burns, Callaghan, Cody, Conway, Dixon, Douglas, Fulton, Oldley, Greenway, Manderson, Pullen, Robertson, Smith, Thewlis, Thomson, Watson, Wicks, Wood.

The Hotham and East Melbourne Clubs will meet on the Richmond Cricket-ground. The following are the teams:—East Melbourne—Adams, Alexander (two), Carr, Champion, Cooper, Dougall, Dunn, Douglas, Grant, Hassett, M'Kay, MacGregor, Oakley, Tuckfield (two), F. Tindale (captain), Tindale, Wookley (two) Westerman. Hotham—Batt, Bayley, Bickford, Bruce, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Goding, Ley, Medway, Neely, Owens, O'Neill, O'Brien, Paterson, Shaw, Sutcliffe, Taylor, Tomlins, Waldron, Walker, Whitney, Guest.

That day his fellow first-20 teams were Butt, Bayley, Bickford, Bruce, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Goding, Ley, Medway, Neely, Owens, O'Neill, O'Brien, Paterson, Shaw, Sutcliffe, Taylor, Tomlins, Waldron, Walker, Whitney. ¹²⁵

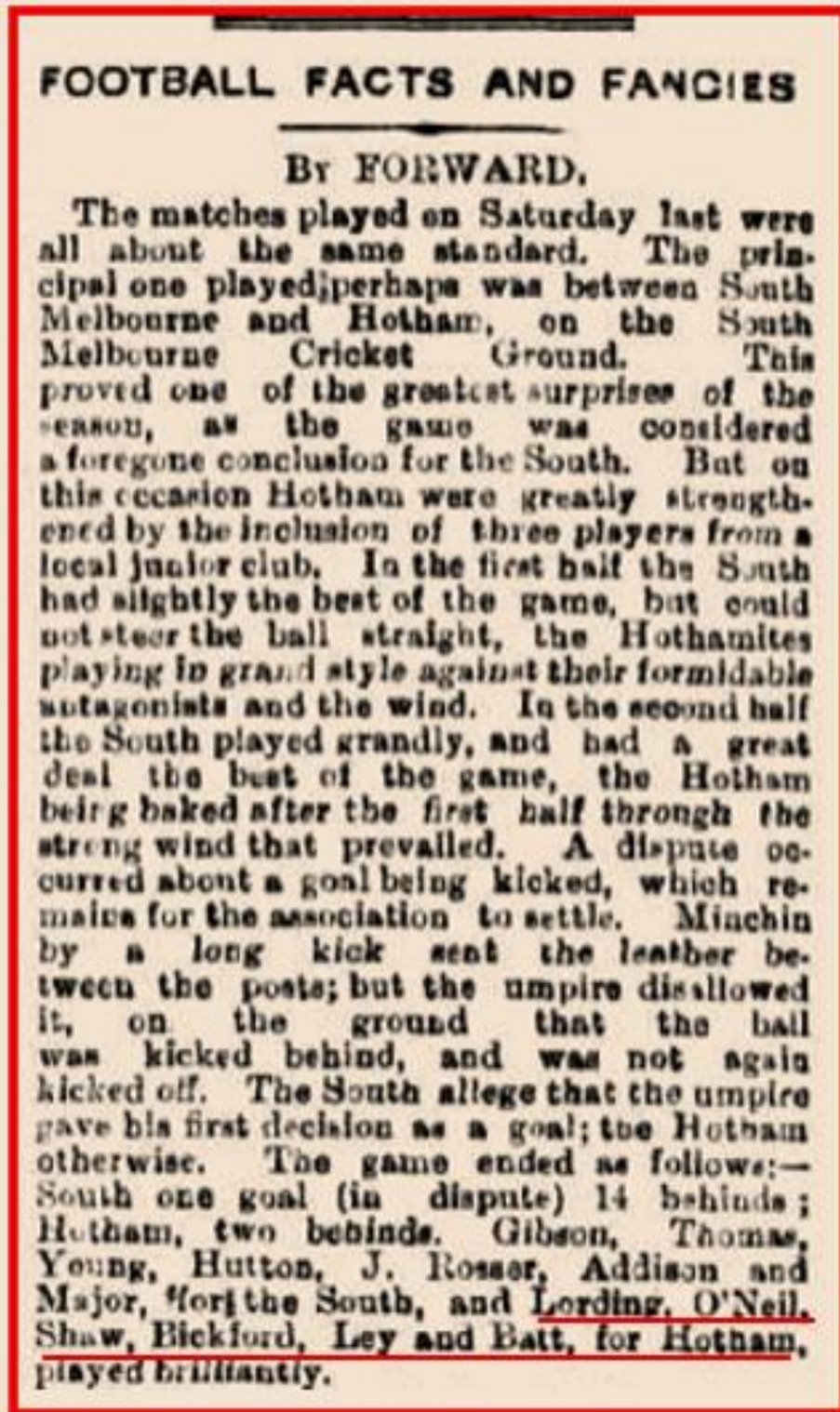
¹²² The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday 10th July 1880, Page 9, This Afternoon's Sports, Hotham v East Melbourne [First Twenty] [mine].

¹²³ William Langford "Guest" known by club members, family and friends as Will Guest, also Mr. W. L. Guest - selected to play.

¹²⁴ Will Guest's two younger brother Jack aged 18 and Archie aged 14 years in 1880, ruling them out as Guest picked to play first-20 in 1880, relative to brother Will Guest, aged 20 years and senior player experience.

¹²⁵ Ibid, The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday 10th July 1880, Page 9.

It was found in the Herald's article, "Football Facts and Fancies" published on Friday 6th August 1880, that Hotham surprised favourites South Melbourne when "Hotham were greatly strengthened by the inclusion of three players from a local junior club" - presumptively positive St Mary's Anglican Church School Football Club, North Melbourne ¹²⁶Named as playing brilliantly for Hotham were players Lording, O'Neil, Shaw, Bickford, Ley and Butt: ¹²⁷



¹²⁶ FOOTBALL FACTS AND FANCIES, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 6th August 1880, Page 2.

¹²⁷ North Melbourne player, and later Essendon player Sam Butt's surname is often misspelled Batt.

1881

The article below reports the match between Hotham and Geelong played in Royal Park on Saturday the 21st May 1881. Recognised are Hotham players, Butt, frequently written down incorrectly as “Batt,”¹²⁸ Burns, Boyd, Clarke, Dodman, Fitzpatrick, Gardiner, Goodwin, Green, Horan, Hutchinson, Ley, Lording, Morrison, McWilliams, Neely, O’Donnell, Howrie, Rohan, Shaw and Walker in front of 5000 spectators at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground. The powerhouse club Geelong Football Club beat Hotham FC by a large margin for the time 4 goals 9 behinds, 33 points to Geelong and 3 behind, 3 points to Hotham:¹²⁹

GEELONG V. HOTHAM.
(By our Special Reporter.)

The first twenty of the Geelong club, accompanied by a number of their supporters, proceeded to the metropolis yesterday, to try conclusions with the Hotham club. The weather was not suitable for the event in any way, as there was a high wind, and rain fell steadily from two until nearly three o'clock, the time when the game was arranged to commence. However, the rain was set at naught, and the trial of prowess punctually entered upon. The following were the respective teams:—

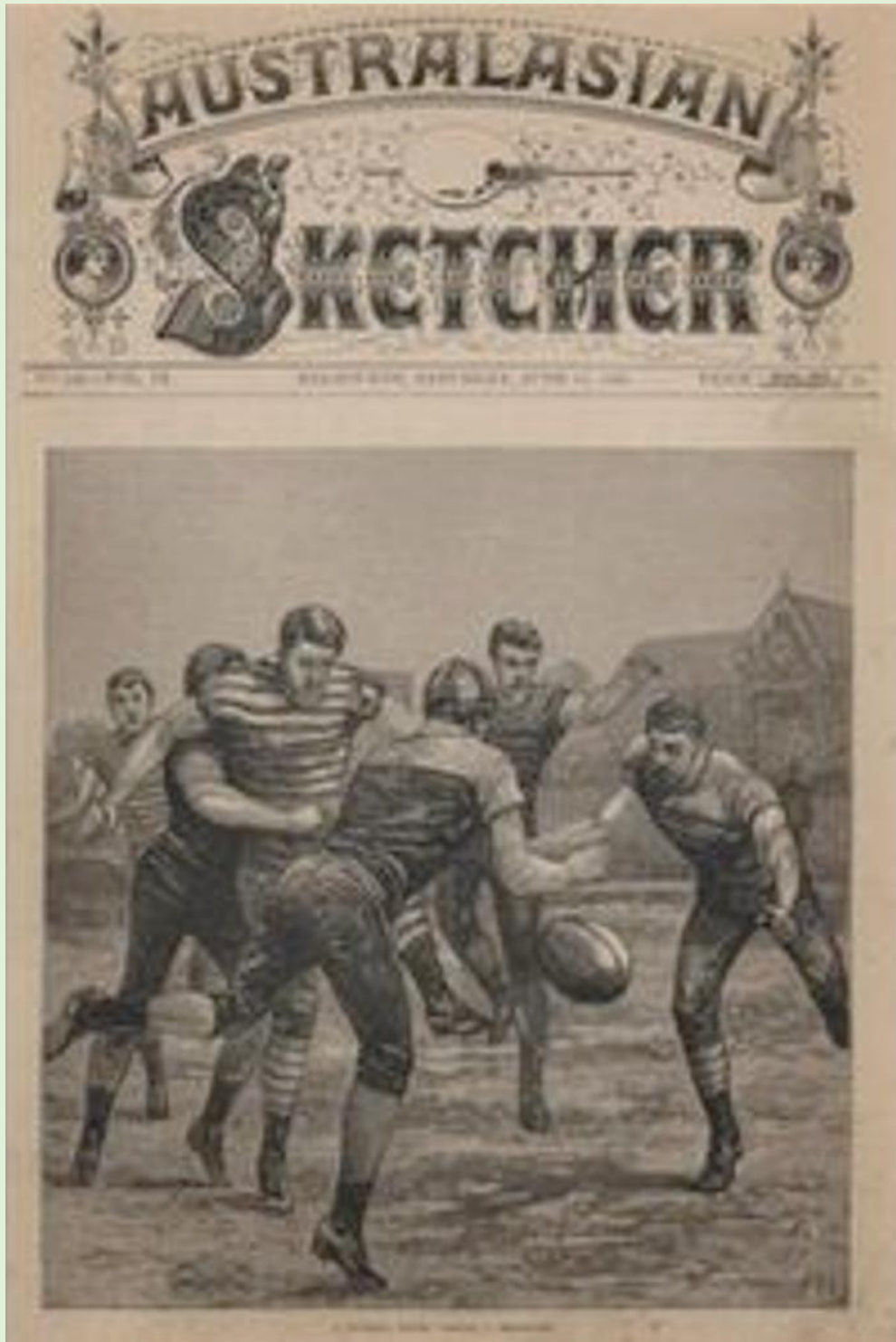
Geelong:—Austin, Atkins, Broughton, Brownlow, Curdie, Collins, Douglass, De Little, Hall, Kirk, Murphy, Morrison, Manifold, McLean, Noble, Steedman, Stephen, Sharp, F. Thomson, and Wilson.

Hotham: Batt, Burns, Boyd, Clarke, Dedman, Fitzpatrick, Gardiner, Goodwin, Green, Horan, Hutchinson, Ley, Lording, Morrison, McWilliams, Neely, O'Donnell, Howrie, Rohan, Shaw, and Walker. The match was played on the East Melbourne cricket ground, in the presence of about 5000 spectators. Austin, captain for Geelong, and Ley, the Hotham skipper, tossed for choice of positions, and the former, winning, elected to kick with the wind, which had slightly moderated. Ley formally kicked off for Hotham, and the excitement commenced, Morrison succeeding, after about five minutes' lively play, in getting a mark in front of the Hotham posts, and putting the ball through them, thus scoring first goal for Geelong. The ball, on being again kicked off, was quickly returned by Geelong, but the rush only resulted in a behind. Hotham then rallied, and Rohan, securing a mark, passed the ball to Walker, who made a fine run, but came to grief soon after, the ball being speedily sent back to the Hotham end, where another behind was scored for Geelong. For some time the ball was sent repeatedly out of bounds, the strong wind carrying it towards the wing, but ultimately Geelong succeeded in pushing the play to the Hotham end. Ley, equal to the emergency, sent the ball out of danger, but the Geelong forwards soon regained possession of it, and Morrison, shooting accurately, again sent it between the posts, scoring the second goal for Geelong. Hotham were apparently overmatched, and tried desperately to defend their citadel. Heavy rain commenced to fall, but the play continued vigorously. The Hothamites, with a fine rush, took the ball into Geelong territory, but it was there of short duration, and once more it traversed the field, Geelong securing another behind. Hotham worked the ball back once more, and it was in Geelong territory when half time was called. On resuming, the Hotham men went in for vigorous play, and for a time seemed to have the advantage, but the Geelong “back” worked well, and Steedman, by an excellent run, conveyed the ball to the other end of the ground, the leather dropping out of bounds near the goal posts. The play was confined to the centre for a while, and then Hotham took away “the leather,” and secured a behind. Shortly afterwards one of the Hotham team was hurt by a fall, and had to leave the field. The ball travelled steadily towards the Hotham end, and Curdie obtained the third goal for his side. After this the match was altogether in favor of the Geelong, for whom Hall scored a fourth goal, and who also had several more chances for scoring than their opponents. The game resulted as follows:—Geelong, 4 goals and 9 behinds; and Hotham, 3 behinds. For Geelong, Austin, Douglass, Broughton, Morrison, Hall, Steedman, Stephen, and Sharp shone conspicuously; and for Hotham, Ley, Batt, Dedman, Goodwin, Shaw, and Walker did yeomen's service. Mr D. O'Brien was the central umpire, and his decisions appeared to give every satisfaction. The local team returned in the evening, tired, but jolly, confident in the anticipations of a season opened so auspiciously.

¹²⁸ The present author is prepared to stand corrected in his correction of player “Batt” as Sam Butt.

¹²⁹ GEELONG v. HOTHAM, Geelong Advertiser, Victoria, Wednesday 25th May 1881, Page 3.

On Saturday June 4th 1881, a moment from the match between Carlton Football Club and Melbourne Football Club was captured in illustration by the Australian Sketcher magazine whereby it was reported that more than 10,000 fans attended the game, this surpassed Carlton's match the week before against South Melbourne Football Club of a comparable size:^{130 131}



¹³⁰ Early Football Match Engraving, 1881 'Australasian Sketcher' front page for Saturday June 18th 1881 featuring a large engraving titled 'A Football Match: Carlton v Melbourne.

¹³¹ National Library of Australia, Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 18th June 1881, page 193.

On Saturday the 25th June 1881, among great controversy was an abandoned match resulting from a Hotham player Mr. Barnes being picked to play despite a charge of indecent exposure (alleged).

The South Melbourne team refused to play and Hotham, in a sign of player solidarity, backed player Barnes refusing to withdraw him despite nearly 5000 spectators waiting for the game to begin.

When the game was called off, the fans could not get their money back and their angst added to the sensation non-game between North and South so to speak on Saturday 25th June 1881 at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground (EMCG):¹³² Uncertain is what became of the charges made against Hotham player Mr. Barnes:



¹³² SCENE AT A FOOTBALL MATCH, The Ballarat Star, Victoria, Monday 27th June 1881, Page 2.

The return match, Melbourne v Hotham reported in the Weekly Times on Saturday 17th September 1881, named the following Hotham players McKenzie, Nearn, Bell, Goding, Shaw, Ley, McGinnis, Boyd, O'Brien, Denhert: ¹³³

MELBOURNE v. HOTHAM.

The above clubs met for the second time this season on the Melbourne football-ground, in the presence of a large number of spectators. It was fully half an hour past the appointed time for starting when both teams took the field. Hotham winning the toss, elected to kick with the wind towards the Richmond end. The game was soon started by Watson, of Melbourne, kicking off. Shortly afterwards, Stiffe made a grand mark and had a place-kick for goal, but only scored a behind. Hotham kicked off, and rushed the ball down the Melbourne end, but Booth, by a grand run, passed it well forward to Stiffe, who sent it behind. On being kicked off, Hotham made a good rally to the Melbourne goal, but the ball was no sooner down there than it was brought back to Hotham end, where M'Kenzie got a mark within easy-kicking distance, but he also failed, a behind being the result. Kicked off, it was soon returned by Melbourne, and M'Kenzie had another shot, without result. After some indifferent play, Stiffe got another mark, and had a place-kick, but the ball did not rise high enough, and a behind resulted. Several behinds followed. After several shots for goal, C. Baker, by a place-kick, landed first goal for Melbourne. Ley kicked off, and Thawla, by a good run, took it well along the grand-stand side. Hotham returned it, and kicked their first behind. Half-time was soon afterwards called, the game standing: Melbourne, one goal and nine behinds; Hotham, one behind. On resuming play, the Hotham rushed the ball towards Melbourne posts. The play, however, did not remain there, and the Hotham goal was soon in danger. Power, by a good place-kick, landing another goal for the "reds." Kicked off by Hotham, the ball was soon forced back. W. Boyd returned it, and the play was for some time on the north wing and back again to the Hotham goal. Hotham soon afterwards made a rush up to the Melbourne goal, securing another behind. Hotham soon afterwards got a goal, kicked by a substitute named Nearn. Melbourne then rushed the ball up to the Hotham goal and scored a behind. Soon after kicking off, the Hotham had the Melbourne goal in danger, and Bell kicked No. 2 for Hotham. M'Kenzie got a mark, but a behind only resulted. Downes soon after kicked third goal for Melbourne. Several shots followed, but without success. After some centre play Hotham got another goal by the aid of Goding. Time was then called, the game resulting in a draw, Melbourne three goals sixteen behinds, Hotham three goals three behinds. For Melbourne, Booth (captain), Thawla, Watson, M'Kenzie, and Stiffe played well, as did also Fitcher, who is a valuable acquisition to the first twenty. For Hotham, Shaw played a grand game, and was ably backed by Ley, McGinnis, Boyd, O'Brien, and Denhert. The game, although drawn, was decidedly in favour of Melbourne, as the behinds show.

¹³³ MELBOURNE v. HOTHAM, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 17th September 1881, Page 5.

1882

The present author suspects this photograph was taken prior to the last game played by North Melbourne come Hotham in Royal Park in front of the changing rooms with the “HFC 1881” brand, perhaps the sign was to signal North’s last full season playing in Royal Park. A ground they had occupied for 20 seasons since the winter of 1860: ¹³⁴



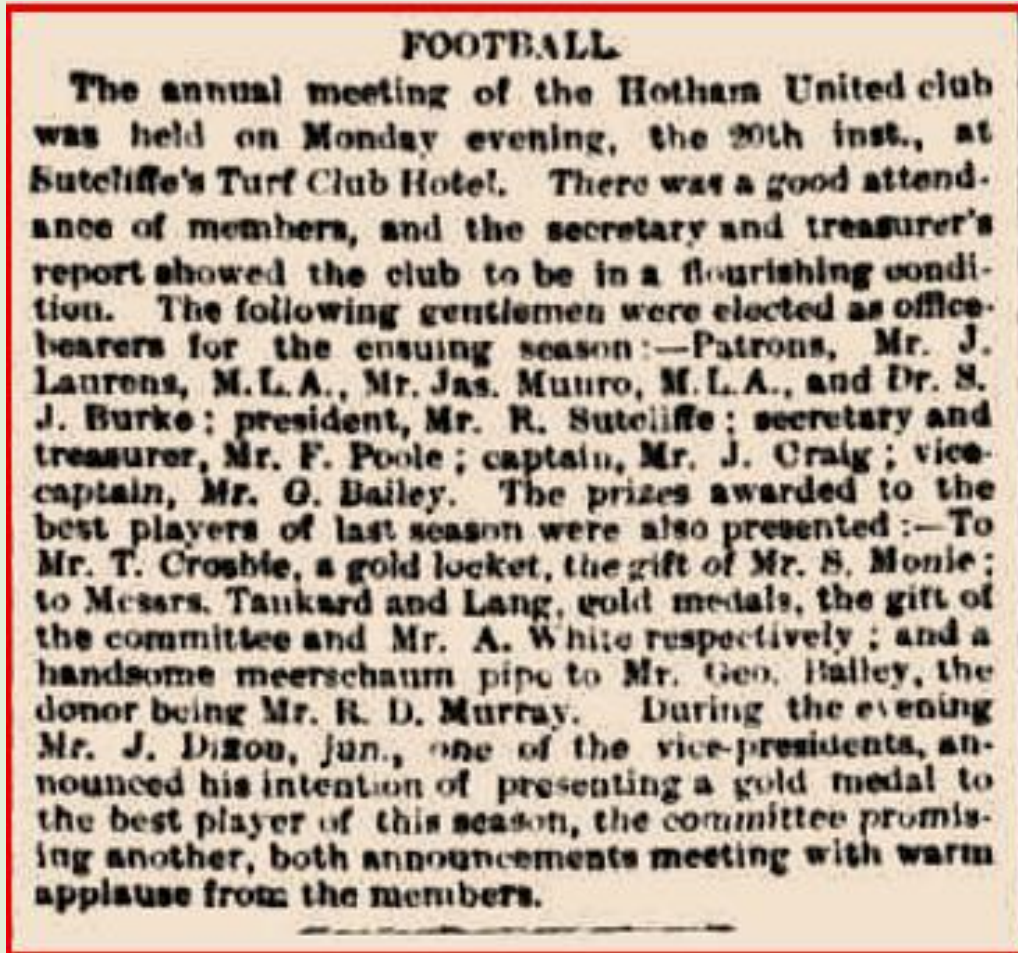
Could this be North’s changing shed pictured above with the “HFC 1881” sign above its doorway, sketched below? Generally, practically the same in structural characteristic, shape and size - less the veranda and posts sketched below – the building in the background sketched below seems to coincide with the building pictured above with North members standing proudly in front of it: ¹³⁵



¹³⁴ Source, Dowling F, 1997.

¹³⁵ Presumptive positive is the author’s visual match of building featured within the images above. The cricket player in the sketch is more likely than not therefore, to be images of the North Melbourne Cricket Club players pre-1868 and as early as 1859/60. The sketch perhaps to commemorate either/or the opening of North’s cricket and football ground in Royal Park in 1859/60 or when the change rooms were built.

On Monday 4th March 1882, the North Melbourne Football Club branded Hotham United held its Annual General Meeting. Elected as office bearers were Patrons, Mr J. Laurens, MLA; Mr James Munro, MLA; and Dr. S.J. Burke. President elect was Mr. Richard Sutcliffe, Secretary and Treasurer, Mr F. Poole. The first-20 club Captain was named, Mr. J. Craig and Vice-Captain, Mr. G. Bailey. Others identified as club members of prominence, included Mr. T. Crosbie; Mr. S. Monie' Mr. [Jospeh] Tankard; Mr. Lang who were e player of note; Mr. A. White, respectively recognised. Add also Mr. George Bailey, Mr. R.D. Murray, and Mr. J. Dixon junior:¹³⁶



North's last game in Royal Park

Overleaf it is shown in some detail that Hotham defeated Richmond on their home ground in Royal Park on Saturday the 22nd April 1882. This was their last game played at Royal Park, formerly known as the old North Melbourne Cricket Ground and the home ground of the football club since the winter of 1860. Bring to end and era of North's games played there spanning 32 seasons. Hotham identities named playing that day include: Pullen, Todd, Cameron, Walker, and three sets of brothers, Rae, Ley and Neely, with many other matching known North Melbourne Footballer playing for the Hotham's cricket team during the 1881/2 season, including Marshall.^{137 138}

¹³⁶ FOOTBALL, AGM OF THE HOTHAM UNITED CLUB, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 22nd March 1882, Page 6.

¹³⁷ FOOTBALL, Hotham d Richmond, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 28th April 1882, Page 3.

¹³⁸ CRICKET, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th February 1882, Page 3.

FOOTBALL.

By "RAMBLER."

The contest between the Hotham and Richmond (23) in the Royal Park, last Saturday, was witnessed by a large concourse of spectators. The partisans of both clubs mustered in great force to cheer their favorites on to victory. The Richmond won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The Hotham, after the ball was sent on its journey, rushed the sphere into their opponents' stronghold and scored a goal. The players then warmed to their work, and playing well together forced the play and gave the Hotham, backs plenty of work to defend their goal. In this half of the game the Richmond lost several chances of scoring by attempting to kick a goal at too great a distance, instead of playing little marks and gradually working the oval near to the posts when the ball was in the Hotham stronghold, though they did the little mark business to perfection in other parts of the field. At half time the game stood—Richmond 5 behinds, Hotham 1 behind. On resuming, the Hotham, being favored with the wind rallied up in fine style, and soon had their opponents in trouble. After about twenty minutes' play the Hotham obtained the first goal of the day through the agency of Pullen. The ball was again set in motion, and the Richmond made several unsuccessful attempts to change the aspect of affairs. The Hotham obtained a second goal, which was kicked by Todd. The last ten minutes of the game were in favor of the Richmond, who kept the ball well down in front of the Hotham posts. The game was won by Hotham by 2 goals and 10 behinds to the Richmond's no goals and 6 behinds. For the victors the grand following of Cameron and Walker was the theme of admiration; and the brothers Rae, Ley, and Neely also played remarkably well. For Richmond, Dean, Gooch, Lockett, Curtis, Aherm, Green and Stevens played a fine game.

North's first game at Arden Street

On Saturday, 29th April 1882, North Melbourne Football Club, then known as Hotham, played their first game of Australian Rules Football on the Hotham Cricket Ground ^{139 140} – was Hotham Recreational Reserve, also known colloquially as “Arden Street.” That historical afternoon North so to speak defeated Royal Park Football Club, 2.9.21 to 0. 2. 2.

THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The Melbourne Football Club play their first match of the season to-day on the Melbourne Cricket-ground against twenty-five representatives of the Public Schools. The names of the respective teams are as follow:—Melbourne—Aitken, C. Baker, Birtwhistle, Carr, Dow, Francis, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Pitcher, C. Power, Rosser (two), Rannard, Sloman, Stiff, Syme, Showers, Thewlis, Ulbrick, Thompson, Lawrence, Evans. Public Schools—Scotch College, Russell, Baird, Craig, M'Neil, Robertson. Wesley College, Burdett, Burrows, Moore, Rush, Everingham, St. Patrick's College, Burton, Jones, O'Callaghan, Healy, Wrigley. C. E. G. S., Geelong, Curdie, Broughton, Armstrong, Aitken, and Thomson. C. E. G. S., Melbourne, Burgess, Osborne (two), Pender, and Syme.

Essendon v. Fowlett (23), at Essendon. The former team will be chosen from—Adams, Alexander, Agg, Bent, Brown, Bloomfield, Carter (two), Dodd, Griffiths, Lethbridge, Martin, Manderson, M'Culloch, M'Shane, M'Donald, M'Arthur, Osborne, Pitcher, Powell, Robinson, Steel, Sloman, Walker, and Watt (two). The following will represent the Fowlett:—Bulcombe, Berthon, Braysbay, Baker, Brown, Burton, Cupit, Dunne, Dunn, James, Kitching, Irwin, Milne, Marshall, Montgomery, Prior, Davis, Paton, Maine, Woods, Rout, M'Kenzie, and Robertson.

Carlton play 23 of the Star of Carlton on the Prince's Oval this afternoon. The following have been chosen to represent Carlton:—Bailey, Boyd, Bushel, Baker, Bloomfield, A. Coventry, Conlthard (vice-captain), Conway, Frayne, Goer (captain), Lacey, Maloney, M'Intosh, O'Donnell, O'Neill, Jno. Richards, Jas. Richards, F. Spear, Smith, Tankard. Emergency—Dermot, Muir. The Star of Carlton 23 are:—Bromell, Cameron (two), Collins, Crew, Elliott, E. Fitzgerald (captain), H. Fitzgerald, Flowers, Loan, Lewis, M'Connick, Millership, Moyes, Nash, O'Hanlan, O'Loghlen, Shearwood, Thomson, Whelan, Wilson (two). Emergency—O'Keefe, Hard, Jessup.

South Melbourne play 23 of the Emerald-hill Juniors on the South Melbourne Cricket-ground. The following will represent South Melbourne:—Messrs. Brooks, Brown, Bushel, Cameron, Fima, Gates, Gibson, Gilchrist, Hopkinson, Latchford, Lording, Major, M'Michael, Rosser, Taylor, Towns, Waine, Wells, Wooley, and Young.

Hotham play the Royal-park on Hotham Cricket-ground this afternoon. The Hotham players will be picked from the following names:—Amoss, Boyd, Brand, Barwise, Clark, Cameron, Goding, Goodwin, Ley, Munro, Mitchell, Neely, Pullen, Rae (two), Smith, Shaw, Todd, Walker, McInnes, Irwin, Westerman, Williams, Litchfield (two), and Young.

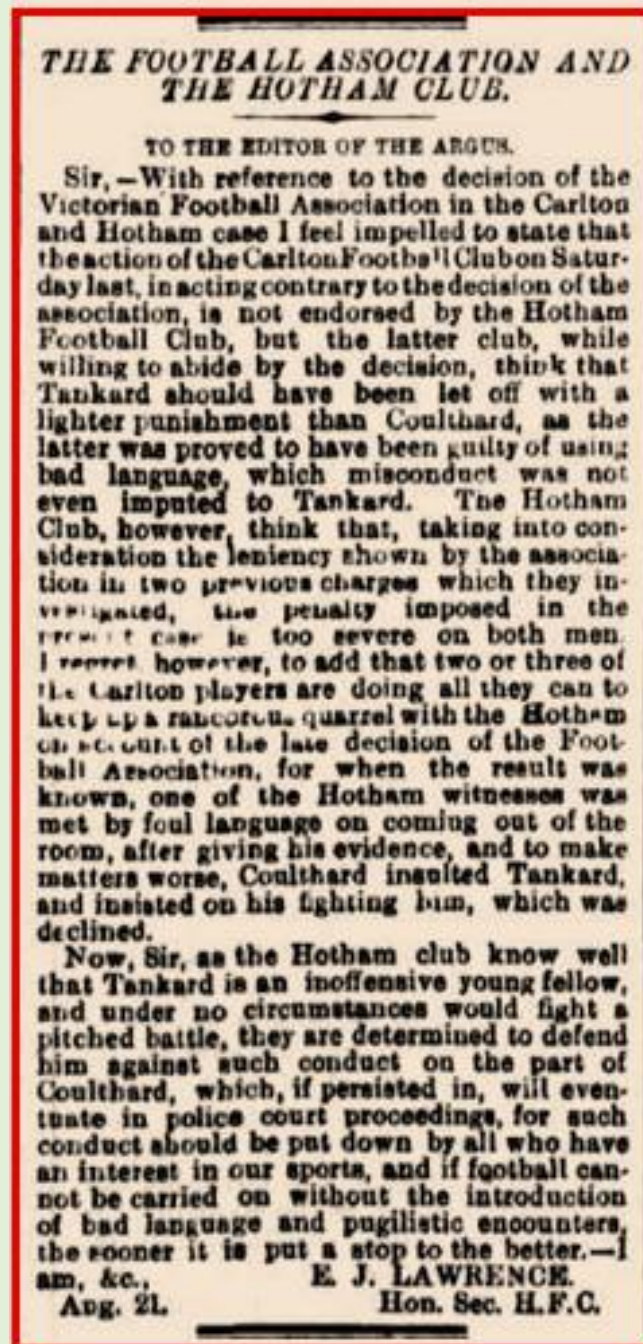
North Melbourne's players of the first-20 team to play at Arden Street in 1882 were Messrs Amoss; Boyd, Brand[t], Barwise, Clark, Cameron, Goding, Goodwin, Ley, Munro, Mitchell, Neely, Pullen, Rae (x2), Smith, Shaw, Todd, Walker, McInnes, Irwin, Westerman, Williams, Litchfield (x2) and Young.

¹³⁹ THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS, FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th April 1882, Page 13.

¹⁴⁰ Arden Street History, NMFC official website, December 1st 2019.

The North (Hotham) players that took to the field at Arden Street that historical day to play in North's first ever game there were picked from the following list of 26 players, which included two sets of brothers, Rae and Litchfield: Amess, Boyd, Brandt, Barwise, Clark, Cameron, Golding, Goodwin, Ley, Munro, Mitchell, Neely, Pullen, Rae, Rae, Smith, Shaw, Todd, Walker, McInnes, Irwin, Westerman, Williams, Litchfield, Litchfield and Young.¹⁴¹

Confirmed is that the Honourable Secretary of the North Melbourne Football Club in 1882 was Mr. E.J. Lawrence by his letter of August 21 1882 being published in the newspaper and advocating for a lighter penalty for Hotham player Joey Tankard.¹⁴²



¹⁴¹ Many of these players are further named in a subsequent article: FOOTBALL, Hotham v Essendon, Essendon and Flemington Chronicle, Victoria, Friday 12th May 1882, Page 3.

¹⁴² THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE HOTHAM CLUB, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 22nd August 1882, Page 10.

FOOTBALL.

By "RAMBLER."

The contest between the Hotham and Richmond (23) in the Royal Park, last Saturday, was witnessed by a large concourse of spectators. The partisans of both clubs mustered in great force to cheer their favorites on to victory. The Richmond won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The Hotham, after the ball was sent on its journey, rushed the sphere into their opponents' stronghold and scored a goal. The players then warmed to their work, and playing well together forced the play and gave the Hotham, backs plenty of work to defend their goal. In this half of the game the Richmond lost several chances of scoring by attempting to kick a goal at too great a distance, instead of playing little marks and gradually working the oval near to the posts when the ball was in the Hotham stronghold, though they did the little mark business to perfection in other parts of the field. At half time the game stood—Richmond 5 behinds, Hotham 1 behind. On resuming, the Hotham, being favored with the wind rallied up in fine style, and soon had their opponents in trouble. After about twenty minutes' play the Hotham obtained the first goal of the day through the agency of Pullen. The ball was again set in motion, and the Richmond made several unsuccessful attempts to change the aspect of affairs. The Hotham obtained a second goal, which was kicked by Todd. The last ten minutes of the game were in favor of the Richmond, who kept the ball well down in front of the Hotham posts. The game was won by Hotham by 2 goals and 10 behinds to the Richmond's no goals and 6 behinds. For the victors the grand following of Cameron and Walker was the theme of admiration; and the brothers Rae, Ley, and Neely also played remarkably well. For Richmond, Dean, Gooch, Lockett, Curtis, Aherm, Green and Stevens played a fine game.

The Fitzroy Football Club emergence from its rebranded Normandy Football Clubs days after it absorbed the club that name is in the form Fitzroy Alberts Football Club and its second-20 side Fitzroy juniors. Mr. John McMahon known as a long-term President of the senior properly constituted club in 1883, the Fitzroy Football Club, who entered the VFA in 1883 and VFL in 1897, and later known from 1996 as Brisbane Lions was at the helm in 1882:

FOOTBALL.	
The first annual meeting of the Fitzroy Alberts Football Club was held on Thursday April 6th at the Ballarat Tavern, Brunswick street. About thirty members were present, the chair being taken by C. Johnston Esq. The proceedings commenced with the election of office-bearers for the ensuing season, and resulted as follows:—President, J. McMahon Esq.; Vice President, C. Johnston Esq.; Captain, W. Anderson; Vice Captain, D. Todd; Secretary, L. Harrison; Treasurer, G. Humberstone. After a vote of thanks to the office-bearers the meeting was brought to a close.	
MATCHES FOR THIS DAY.	
Fitzroy Juniors v. W. M. Stanley, in the Richmond Paddock. Juniors team:—Cody, Burke, Brown, Clements, Clifton, Defries, Anticott, Evans, R. Greaves, Hellings, Ladd, Lever, Muir, Menan, McIlroy, Mills (2), Robinson, Turner, Webster.	
Fitzroy Alberts v. Union Jack 2nd. On the ground of the former. Alberts team—Anderson (capt), Todd, Harrison, Humberstone, Tomis, Kelly, Tobin, Graham, Manion, Clarke, Lederman, Morris, Dugan, Sullivan, Murray, Miller, Nelson (2), Day and Williams. Members are requested to meet at the Rob Roy Hotel not later than half-past two.	

FIXTURES FOR THE SEASON.		
FITZROY ALBERTS FOOTBALL CLUB.		
Date.	Club.	Ground.
April 29	Union Jack 2nd	Richmond Paddock
May 6	Carlton Grosvenor	"
	13 Twilight	"
	20 Hotham Juniors	Hotham.
	27 Southern Cross	Richmond Paddock
June 3	St. Kilda Alma	"
	10 Emerald	"
	17 Emerald hill Alberts	Albert Park.
	24 Twilight	Richmond Paddock
July 1	Abbotsford Union	"
	8 Hotham Juniors	"
	15 Elgin Union	"
	22 Carlton Grosvenor	"
	29 Emerald-hill Alberts	"
August 5	Twilight	"
	12	"
	19 Southern Cross	Faulkner Park
	26	"
September 28	St. Kilda Alma	St. Kilda.
	9 Elgin Union	Prince's Oval
	16	"
	23 Emerald	Emerald Hill
	30	"

1883

In 1883, football in Royal Park gained remarkable popularity among the youth of North Melbourne and Carlton, as well as nearby suburbs. The park became a hub for kids aged 7 years to young men reaching the age of under-21, gravitated to Royal Park each and every Saturday with an estimated number no fewer than 500 to 600 athletes competing each Saturday afternoon, about three to four teams on the crowded fields.¹⁴³ This equates to the equivalent of 25 to 30 teams and the activity coincided with North Melbourne's first and second-20 teams continuing to play their home matches in Royal Park since 1860, as well as the Carlton Football Club also holding many of their home games in Royal Park after becoming nomadic since 1876. North also began to field its third-20 team they named Courtney United, which primarily consisted of under-21 players, in order to tap into the large youth population base swelling in Hotham/North Melbourne. North and Carlton open game sides drew large numbers of spectators to Royal Park most weekends that had to wade through the 25-30 ad hoc and organised matches played by the 7- Under 21-year-olds.

Notably, this was 14 years before the Carlton Football Club established itself at what would become the iconic Princes Park oval, having previously played at various locations, including Royal Park itself, where they occasionally held matches during their nomadic period from 1877 to 1896. The Carlton club did, however, continue to play many games on the underdeveloped oval, which would post-1897 be known as Princes Park in the reserve's northeast corner. North was some distance away, with their ground held since the 1859/60 cricket season in the southwest corner, near number 1 Flemington Road, Richard Sutcliffe's Turf Hotel:

SMALL FOOTBALLERS IN ROUGH PLACES.

On every Saturday afternoon, no matter what the weather, 500 or 600 young persons, varying in age from seven to 20 years, engage in the exhilarating pastime of football at the Royal-park. The ground on which they meet is a green paddock of wide extent, with considerable irregularity of contour, and dotted over with bare patches, which have probably been worn by the feet of lonely goalkeepers patrolling over a limited space to keep themselves warm. At 3 o'clock the visitor—for it would be beyond the bounds of reason to imagine more than one on the ground at a time—finds the sport in full swing.

Goal-posts of a great variety of height and thickness are stuck irregularly in the turf, and in numbers sufficient to remind him of the little flag-poles which mark the course at a foot race. A band of ragged urchins of tender years are stripped for vigorous action as far as the bounds of decency, as they understand the word, will permit, and there is scarcely one of them that is destitute of some distinctive bit of colour in his apparel to indicate his membership of the Imperial, the Royal, the Eureka, or other "club." Grimy of face, they have evidently come direct from the workshop to the ground, deeming a preliminary wash as the veriest formality conceivable. They are disposed to be argumentative, and their voices, altogether out of proportion with their stature, mingle in a wild chorus as they dispute the bearings of the law upon some questionable coup. There is no umpire. All must be players or nothing. If the rain come down sharply, it only adds a zest to the game, the consequences being left for parents and guardians to rectify with bottle or birch, according to taste or principle.

¹⁴³ On May 26th 1881, several school boys broke one of the panes to a shop window in Courtenay Street, North Melbourne. The young culprits, were Robert Ellis (11 years), James Redman (12 years), James Brown (14 years) and Archibald Guest (Aged 15 years). Subsequently one of them, or in turn, put their hand through the hole and abstracted articles (toys). Penalty - severe reprimand and 1s fine. Source: POLICE INTELLIGENCE, The Argus, Melbourne, Friday 24th June 1881, Page 3.

On inquiry it is found that the match in progress is between the Faraday Unions and the Phœnixes, and a blithe bright-eyed youngster, out of puff with much speaking and running, tells all whom it may concern that the other side, whichever it may be, want to include in their ranks "that big chap in the red shirt as belongs to a big club, the "Clydeses," a proposition which he declares himself prepared to resist to his latest breath. Close to this little band of enthusiastic footballers are the goal posts of the Yarravilles v. Carlton Almas match, which is on a larger scale.

So great a hill rises in the middle of their ground that only the tops of the other posts are visible. The young fellows playing here average 20 years of age, and their play strongly recalls the giant struggles which take place on the metropolitan cricket grounds. A few steps further on is a goalkeeper, standing shivering between his pillars. He seems to be connected with no game at all. A dense and struggling mass of parti-coloured arms, legs, and heads is visible at a distance of several hundred yards, and as he keeps his eye on it, muttering occasionally, "That's the play, Imperials," "Keep it up, Carlton," "Good boy, Carlton Imperials," he is probably associated with it in some remote manner. He is an undersized youth, about 16 years of age, and smokes a short clay with the air of one who has soothed himself in this way for an indefinitely long period. The rain continues, and he shivers more and more, and it relieves one's fears for his health to see him move towards his coat and vest, lying on the grass.

He does not put them on, however. He merely turns them over, so that the inside hiding may be kept dry. Then he continues his shivering with greater violence than ever. In reply to the question, "Won't the rain stop the game," he replies in the affirmative, "If it comes down heavy." It is quite heavy enough now to drive a mere spectator away.

As the said spectator takes a straight path for the wicket-gate by which he entered he finds himself involved half-a-dozen contests which he did not notice before. The spaces taken up by each set of players often overlap, and the result is confusion. It not infrequently happens that a player, blinded by his enthusiasm, finds himself kicking a ball and achieving unheard of triumphs with it, as he dodges imaginary enemies, until it is rudely taken from him by a number of strange youths, who sarcastically ask him what match he thinks he's playing in, and isn't one match at a time enough for him to attend to? A small group of the veriest infants are busy with a small ball, and a broom handle, a biscuit tin, and a couple of bricks, with which they have improvised goal-posts. Their little legs, bare to the knee, are thick with wet mud, but they wrestle on, mindful of the technicalities of the game, and totally regardless of the colds and coughs of which they are laying the foundation. Returning to the batch first observed, it is found by, a general resumption of coats "that operations have been suspended. The Phœnixes have retired from the contest, beaten. A little member of the Unions conveys this information, with the remark that, "If you are a reporter, sir, his name is Jimmy Smithers, and he kicked two goals, and will you please put that in the paper, sir?" A heavy downpour converts the sloping ground into a succession of rivulets, and with many expressions of disgust, the various "clubs" retreat at full speed, searching for convenient shelter.

SMALL FOOTBALLERS IN ROUGH PLACES.

On every Saturday afternoon, no matter what the weather, 200 or 300 young persons, varying in age from seven to 20 years, engage in the exhilarating pastime of football on the Royal-park. The ground on which they meet is a great paddock of wide extent, with even admirable irregularity of contour, and dotted over with bare patches, which have probably been worn by the feet of hoary footballers padding over a limited space, to keep them below warm. At breakfast the visitor—for it would be beyond the bounds of reason to imagine even that one on the ground at a time—finds the river in full swing. The points of a great variety of heights and thickness are stark irregularly in the turf, and in numerous instances to remind him of the little dag-poles which mark the course at a foot race. A band of ragged youths of broken youth are striped for race-course action so far as the bounds of decency, as they understand the word, will permit, and there is scarcely one of them that is destitute of some distinctive bit of colour in his apparel to indicate his membership of the Imperial, the Royal, the Phoenix, or other "club." (Very of late, they have occasionally run down the workshop to the ground, donning a pair of trousers wash as the various formulae conceivable. They are disposed to be argumentative, and their wares, although devoid of proportion with their stature, mingle in a wild throng as they dispute the ownership of the last piece of un-possessed-once. There is no umpire. All must be players or nothing. If the rain runs down sharply, it only adds a zest to the game, the consequences being left for parents and guardians to rectify with lecture or bribe, according to taste or petulance.

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keeper standing shivering between his pillars. He seems to be connected with no game at all. A dense and struggling mass of parti-coloured arms, legs, and heads is visible at a distance of several hundred yards, and as he keeps his eye on it, muttering occasionally, "That's the play, Imperials," "Keep it up, Carlton," "Good boy, Carlton Imperials," he is probably associated with it in some remote manner. He is an undersized youth, about 16 years of age, and smokes a short clay with the air of one who has soothed himself in this way for an indefinitely long period. The rain continues, and he shivers more and more, and it relieves one's fears for his health to see him move towards his coat and vest, lying on the grass. He does not put them on, however. He merely turns them over, so that the inside hiding may be kept dry. Then he continues his shivering with greater violence than ever. In reply to the question, "Won't the rain stop the game?" he replies in the affirmative, "If it comes down heavy." It is quite heavy enough now to drive a mere spectator away.

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First found for North Melbourne Football Club for the 1882 season saw Hotham play Star of Carlton at Hotham Recreational Reserve (Arden Street Oval) on Saturday 12th May 1883. Named that day playing for Hotham were, Rae, A. Todd, Shaw, and Coffey:¹⁴⁴

HOTHAM V STAR OF CARLTON —On Saturday afternoon the Hotham Recreation Reserve was inaugurated by a match played between the local first twenty and 23 Star of Carlton. Owing to the play of the latter last Saturday week against the Carlton, in which they nearly scored a victory, a close and exciting game was looked forward to by a large crowd of visitors. Contrary to expectation, however, the Hotham quite overmatched their opponents. Hotham got four goals (kicked by Rae, three, and Shaw, one) and 16 behinds, to Star of Carlton's four behinds. For the former, Rae, A. Todd, Shaw, Coffey, and others played a good game, R. Fitzgerald, Whelan, Nash, and Heatley doing the same for the Star of Carlton. Mr. T. Croble made an excellent central umpire.

The following week on Saturday the 19th May 1883, Hotham lined up against Royal Park Football Club at the Hotham Recreational Reserve. Named for Hotham were players: O'Brien, Todd, Coffey, Perkins, Parkins, Litchfield, Tankard and Franks:¹⁴⁵

Hotham met 32 of Royal-park on Saturday afternoon, at Hotham Reserve. The former team played a good concerted game from the start, having plenty of opportunities to score, of three of which they availed themselves in the first half. The second half produced a similar result, the finish being Hotham six goals, kicked by O'Brien and Todd (two each), Coffey and Perkins (one each), and 10 behinds, to Royal-park nil. For Hotham, Parkins, Coffey, Litchfield, Tankard, and Franks played well; and for Royal-park, Nairn, Wickham, M'Lennan, Kirwan, and others did good service. Mr. J. Shaw was a satisfactory central umpire.

¹⁴⁴ FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 14th May 1883, Page 7.

¹⁴⁵ FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Monday 21st May 1883, Page 9.

In their match against Essendon, on Saturday 7th June 1883, and after their victory over Carlton FC, and with South Yarra FC defeating Essendon FC, the previous week, Hotham FC were expected to defeat Essendon. However, after Hotham had a very good first half, but went down by 3 goals: ¹⁴⁶

Hotham, after their Carlton victory and in the face of South Yarra having defeated Essendon, had good grounds for expecting to hold their own against the latter team on Saturday, but the Essendon players had evidently been reckoning that their defeats in the last two matches played would seriously disfigure the record for the first half of the season, and "wired in" with a will. The Hothamites played so well together during the first half that Essendon supporters began to look blue, but after the interval, and in teeming rain, the "red and black" champions took complete possession of the leather, and never gave their opponents half a chance to score, winning brilliantly with 3 goals to the good.

Reported in the Sydney Morning Herald five weeks later -on Saturday the 14th July 1883 - Hotham again took on Essendon Football Club with the game ending in a draw, 4 goals apiece: ¹⁴⁷

Our Melbourne correspondent telegraphs that the Melbourne Football Club visited Ballarat on Saturday, and there defeated the local teams. The teams of Carlton and Port Adelaide met, the former winning by 6 goals to 3. There was also a close match played between Essendon and Hotham, which ended in a draw, each team scoring 4 goals.

The last record found by the present author of Hotham 1883, inaugural full season playing their home games at the Hotham Recreational Reserve, colloquially referred to simply as "Arden Street Oval" was on Saturday the 18th August 1883. That day they played against Melbourne Football Club at Arden Street.

Useful is that players from both clubs were named to play that day with many now familiar names for the Hotham/North Melbourne Football Club of the earlier decade and prior to 1877. Hotham's named players that day were: Adams, J. Barwise, ¹⁴⁸ Buncle, Butt, Brandt, Clark, Coffey, Franks, Houston, Ley, Maher, McInnes, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Shaw, Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd, Watkins, Williams, Williams: ¹⁴⁹

Melbourne v. Hotham, at Hotham Recreation-reserve.—The following will represent Melbourne, who are requested to meet at Carlton's at 2 o'clock :—Booth, Bower, Conway, Jones, Macdonald, Mackenzie, M'Intyre, Moss, Murphy, Patterson, Plant, Pohman, Propsting, Rickards, Rush, Sloman, Stiffe, Thewlis, Tuckfield, Walsh; emergencies, Cunningham, Strachan. Hotham Team—Adams, Barwise, Buncle, Butt, Brandt, Clark, Coffey, Franks, Houston, Ley, Maher, M'Innes, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Shaw, Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd, Watkins, Williams (two).

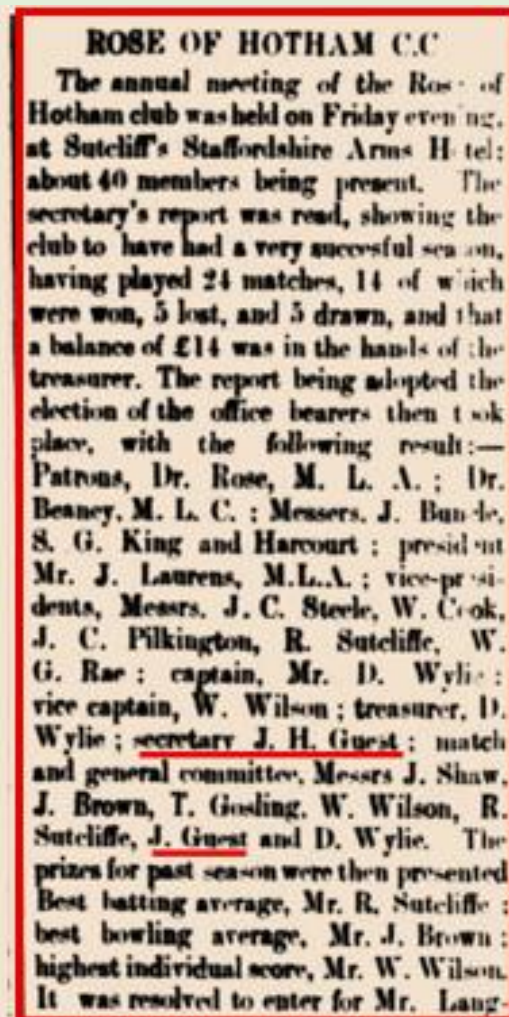
¹⁴⁶ FOOTBALL GOSSIP, The Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 9th June 1883, Page 20.

¹⁴⁷ FOOTBALL, The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Monday 16th July 1883, Page 6.

¹⁴⁸ Selby, I., 1924, p335, History of Melbourne – Revisited writes [*This John Barwise is assumed to be the son of John Barwise senior. The latter ...*], "John Barwise was called the father of North Melbourne Town Council. His son says that he spent forty years in municipal life and for a time he was Mayor of Hotham [*mine*].

¹⁴⁹ FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 18th August 1883, Page 10.

On Friday 14th September 1883, the author's grand uncle, Jack Guest (1862-1922), originally named John Henry Guest (1862-1922), held the position of secretary for the Hotham Cricket Club.¹⁵⁰ This was a pivotal time for the North Melbourne club as it underwent a social and geographical reunion into a “one-club” under the management of the football team, at Hotham Recreational Reserve, also known as Arden Street Oval:



He did this side-by-side with his older brother Will Guest, both of whom remained largely unrecognised in the club's history. They played a significant role nevertheless, in facilitating this reunification and fostering camaraderie between the cricketers and footballers after a challenging period of separation within the North Melbourne Club since 1868.

Jack Guest, Secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club in 1883 succeeded T.S. Marshall. Jack was also a member of the match committee suggesting he was also a player for the cricket club. Brother Will Guest, known also as Mr. W.L. Guest was elected to the post of treasurer of the controlling entity,¹⁵¹ ¹⁵²Hotham Football Club, and becoming also the club's VFA delegate for the North Melbourne Football Club [H.F.C].

¹⁵⁰ ROSE OF HOTHAM C.C., North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 21st September 1883, Page 3.

¹⁵¹ NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB RIGHTS TO ARDEN STREET OVAL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 29th July 1936, Page 12.

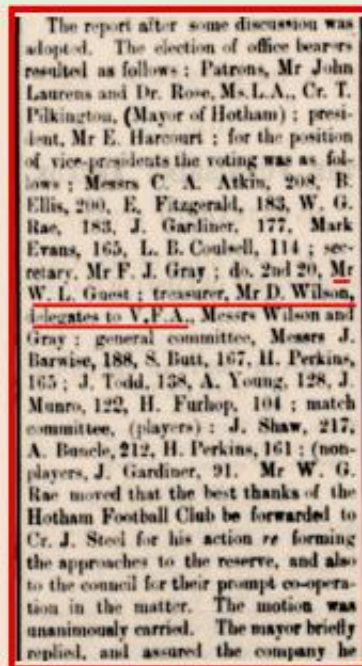
¹⁵² "Law.com Law Dictionary – *in loco parentis*," see Law.com.

1884

Will Guest's election as club treasurer and VFA delegate

About six months later on April 4th 1884, the North Melbourne Advertiser reported on the football club's public presentation of its annual during the AGM, confirming Will Guest's election as treasurer and V.F.A delegate for the club.

Additionally, many of the previously listed names associated with both the cricket and football sporting divisions within the North Melbourne club are noted in the Cricket's club's AGM in September 1883 annual general meeting of the football club shown below:¹⁵³



The report after some discussion was adopted. The election of office bearers resulted as follows: Patrons, Mr John Laurens and Dr. Rose, M.S.L.A., Cr. T. Pilkington, (Mayor of Hotham); president, Mr E. Harcourt; for the position of vice-presidents the voting was as follows: Messrs C. A. Atkin, 208, B. Ellis, 200, E. Fitzgerald, 183, W. G. Rae, 183, J. Gardiner, 177, Mark Evans, 165, L. B. Coulsell, 114; secretary, Mr F. J. Gray; do. 2nd 20, Mr W. L. Guest; treasurer, Mr D. Wilson, delegates to V.F.A., Messrs Wilson and Gray; general committee, Messrs J. Barwise, 188, S. Butt, 167, H. Perkins, 165; J. Todd, 158, A. Young, 128, J. Munro, 122, H. Furhop, 104; match committee, (players): J. Shaw, 217, A. Buncle, 212, H. Perkins, 161; (non-players, J. Gardiner, 91. Mr W. G. Rae moved that the best thanks of the Hotham Football Club be forwarded to Cr. J. Steed for his action re forming the approaches to the reserve, and also to the council for their prompt co-operation in the matter. The motion was unanimously carried. The mayor briefly replied, and assured the company he

Named specifically above are many senior office bearers of the North Melbourne Football Club of the period, player and also patrons, many previously cited and continue to be involved post 1884-1889, namely: Mr. E. Harcourt, President; Vice Presidents – Messrs C.A. Atkin, B. Ellis, E. Fitzgerald, W.G. Rae, J. [H]. Gardner,¹⁵⁴ Mark Evans, L.B Coulsell; Secretary – Mr. F. Gray; Treasurer – Mr W.L. Guest and delegate to the VFA; General committee members: Messrs J. Barwise junior, S. Butt, H. Perkins, J. Todd, A. Young, J. Munro, H. Fuhrop; Match Committee- (players): J. Shaw, A. Buncle, H. Perkins; (non-players) – J. [H]. Gardiner.

Continued ...

¹⁵³ FOOTBALL, HOTHAM FOOTBALLCLUB AGM, Mr. W. L. Guest [Mr. William Langford Guest/Will Guest] elected treasurer and VFA delegate, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 4th April 1884, Page 3. Trove: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66160068>.

¹⁵⁴ Selby, I., 1924, p148, History of Melbourne – Revisited – “*The father of J. H. Gardiner, the perambulator maker, in Hotham, was the founder of that industry in Melbourne. J. H. Gardiner was councillor when the Cemetery agitation was on. He has since passed away. At that time there were two Gardiners in the council, one representing Carlton and the other North Melbourne I jocularly suggested that J. H. Gardiner voted with those who would destroy the Cemetery, because he saw so many of his perambulators drawn up before the market. The mothers go to market with perambulators, and wheel the produce home; surely the better way would be for the merchants to distribute it by motor car.*”

Perkins, Rigg, Franks, E. Young, Maher, Bunce, Ley, and M'Innes, 1 each.

As will be seen by the above results, we are not very forward on the list of successful clubs, yet it must be universally admitted that the play of our representatives was deserving of a much better position.

It is very gratifying to your committee to be able to state that during the past season we scored a victory over our old rivals, the Carlton,—a result never before achieved by our club.

Your committee and a few gentlemen admirers during the past season had the pleasure of presenting to Mr. Tankard a testimonial on behalf of the club, while wedding presents were made to Messrs. Brandt and Pullen, your committee thinking the respective events suitable times to offer a slight acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by them to the club.

Donations amounting to £35 were passed and forwarded by your committee, as follows: £21 to the Hotham Recreation reserve, £5 5s towards Geo. Coulthard's Fund, £3 3s towards Hotham Handicap, £2 2s towards the North Park Football Club, and £3 10s to Williamstown Football Club.

Medals had been promised by supporters of the club to the three best players in 1st 20, but your committee regret to state that only one is forthcoming, and that has been awarded to Mr Barwise, and a special prize has been awarded to Mr J. Shaw, your committee being of opinion that the play of these gentlemen during the past season justifies them in making the above awards; but, at the same time Messrs. H. Perkins,

Continued ...

Franks, Butt, Tankard, H. and A. Todd, J. Rae, Houston, Brandt, Ley, Bunche and Clark, are deserving of great praise for the manner in which they tried to uphold the reputation of the club in the football field.

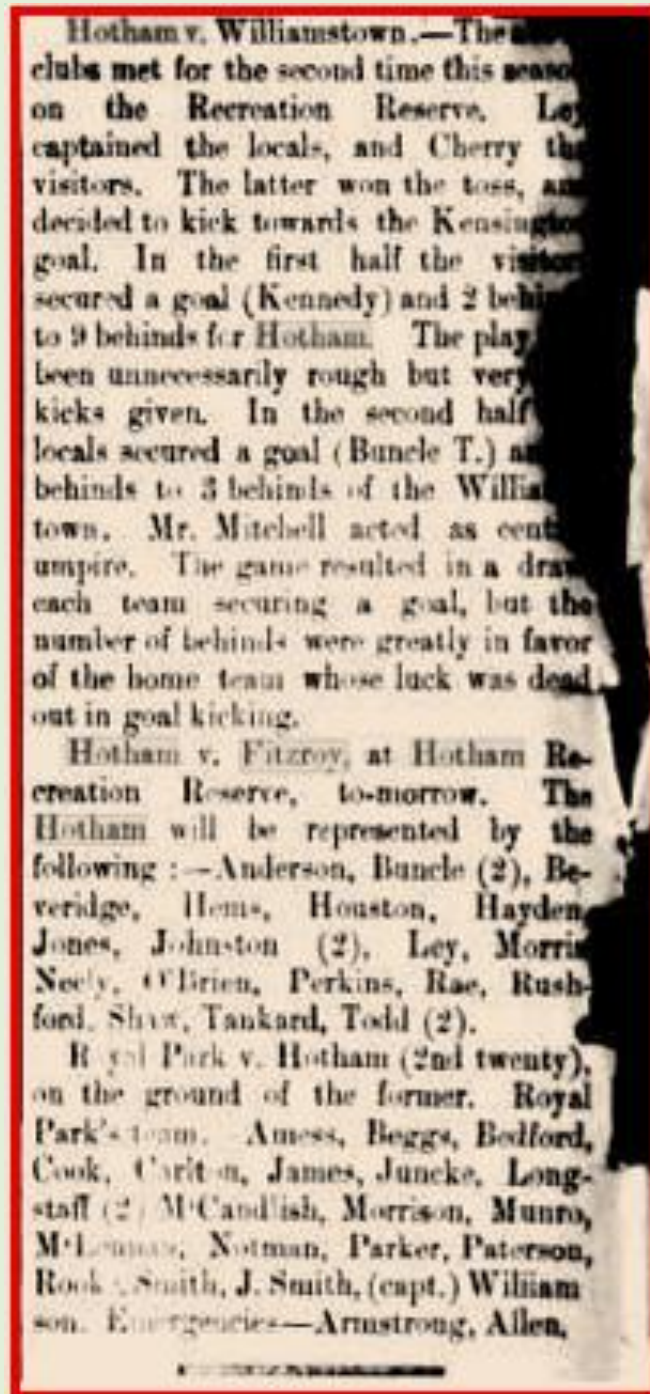
Your committee are sorry to state the resignation of Mr. J. Rae as secretary to the club, which was received with regret, and a vote of thanks was tendered him for past services. Mr F. J. Gray was elected in his stead.

In conclusion, your committee desire to thank those who have seconded their efforts to promote the general welfare of the club, as no doubt through their exertions the number of members has been greatly increased, and with a view to incur success in the coming and future seasons would respectfully urge all members to use their influence in furthering the club's interest.

The report after some discussion was adopted. The election of office bearers resulted as follows : Patrons, Mr John Laurens and Dr. Rose, Ms.L.A., Cr. T. Pilkington, (Mayor of Hotham) ; president, Mr E. Harcourt ; for the position of vice-presidents the voting was as follows ; Messrs C. A. Atkin, 208, B. Ellis, 200, E. Fitzgerald, 183, W. G. Rae, 183, J. Gardiner, 177, Mark Evans, 165, L. B. Coulsell, 114 ; secretary, Mr F. J. Gray ; do. 2nd 20, Mr W. L. Guest ; treasurer, Mr D. Wilson, delegates to V.F.A., Messrs Wilson and Gray ; general committee, Messrs J. Barwise, 188, S. Butt, 167, H. Perkins, 165 ; J. Todd, 138, A. Young, 128, J. Munro, 122, H. Furhop, 104 ; match committee, (players) : J. Shaw, 217, A. Bunche, 212, H. Perkins, 161 ; (non-players, J. Gardiner, 91. Mr W. G. Rae moved that the best thanks of the

Hotham Football Club be forwarded to Cr. J. Steel for his action re forming the approaches to the reserve, and also to the council for their prompt co-operation in the matter. The motion was unanimously carried. The mayor briefly replied, and assured the company he would convey their wishes to the council, the members of which were determined to do all in their power to make the approaches a credit to the town. (Applause.) After the transaction of other routine business which was interspersed with several songs, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and the meeting closed.

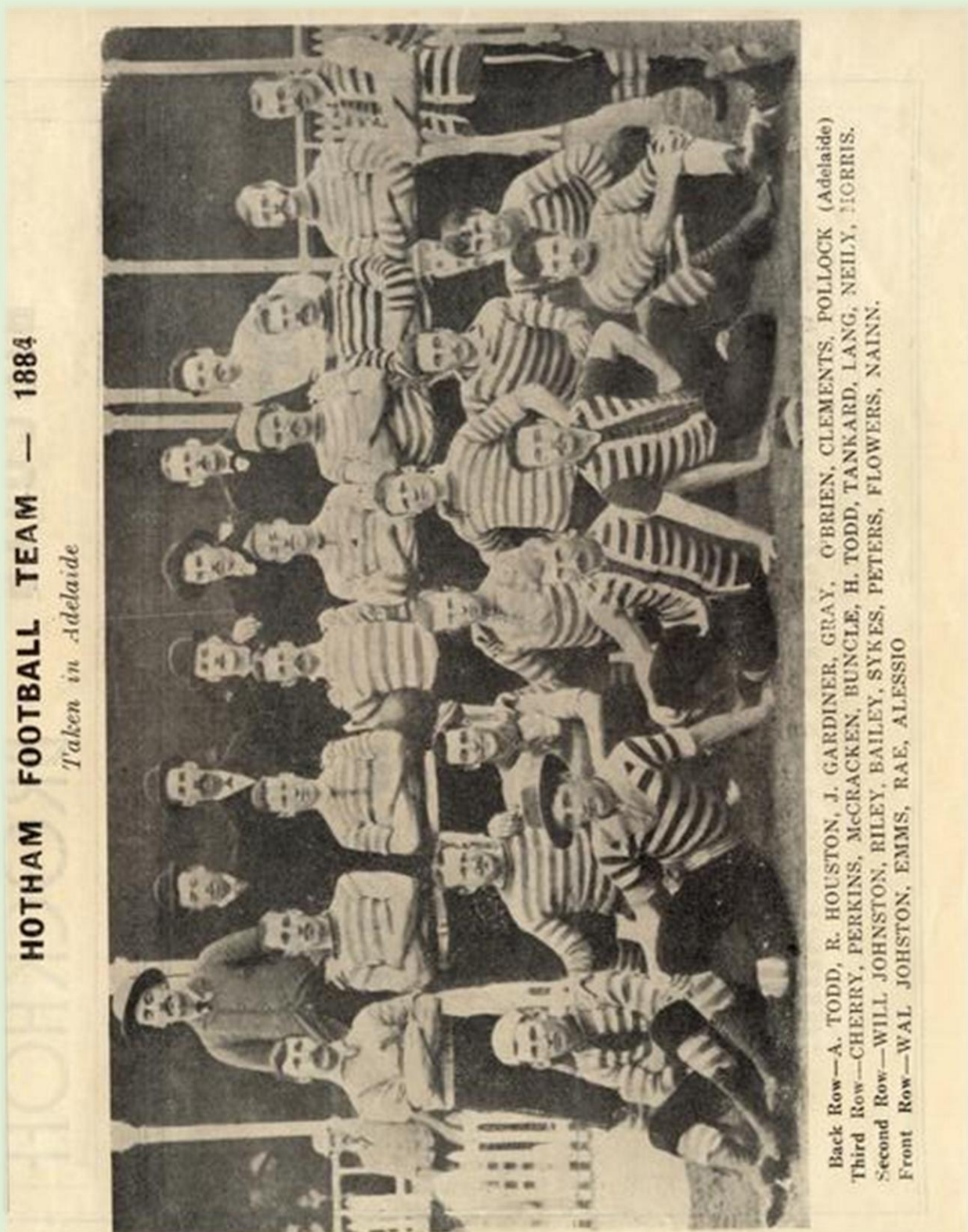
Captured below are names of players coming under notice for Hotham in their game against Williamstown in Hotham on Saturday August 16th 1884. Also featured in the column are the names of players picked to play against Fitzroy Football Club on Saturday 23rd August 1884 also scheduled to be played in Hotham Recreational Reserve: ¹⁵⁵



The so listed first-20 players for Hotham taking to the field against Fitzroy were: Anderson, A. Buncle, T. Buncle, Beveridge, H. Hems, R.S. Houston, Hayden, Jones, Will Johnston, Wal Johnston, Ley, Morris, Neely, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Rushford, Shaw Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd.

¹⁵⁵ HOTHAM V WILLIAMSTOWN; HOTHAM V FITZROY, AND ROYAL PARK V HOTHAM (2ND TWENTY), North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 22nd August 1884, Page 2.

The first-20 team is pictured below after an inter-colonial match played in Adelaide in 1884 whereby they wore the old belt-to-belt Guernsey, not worn since they dropped the hoops when they joined the VFA in 1877.¹⁵⁶



¹⁵⁶ This club photograph is considered to be correctly attributed to year and players listed. The horizontal “belt-to-belt” guernsey remained from 1876 until 1886 when the horizontal stripes were adopted.

Most unusually a performance profile for many of the first-20 players for the Hotham Football Club in 1884 which was published in the North Melbourne Advertiser. The publication provides for a rare glimpse into the football playing reputation of those named players of North Melbourne come Hotham: ¹⁵⁷

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

The success attending the efforts of the first twenty of the Hotham Football Club, during the past season has been very marked. The opening matches were very indifferently played but once in working order the local team repeatedly astonished their opponents. The glorious victories attending the three last contests viz, Fitzroy, South Melbourne and Melbourne were sufficient to prove it was only towards the close of the season that the team instead of falling off were vastly improved, and had the redoubtable Geelong again faced the Hotham boys the result, basing the play on the lines of the last victory, would have been most difficult to venture upon. In drawing the curtain over the season of '84 it is a pleasure to congratulate the hon. sec. Mr. F. G. Gray on his assiduity and the committee, for their attention to their duties and the Recreation Reserve committee for the many improvements effected on the ground during the past season, and whilst we praise the powers that be, we have also a few words on behalf of the players who may be described as follows:—

Allesio—Fair player improved considerably towards the end of the season.

Buncle A.—The coolest player in the team, generally plays back but is scarcely to be out-done in any part of the field. Splendid rover.

Buncle T.—Is another cool player not so good as his brother but exhibits good judgment as a forward man.

Houston D.—Is still as good as in former years and does the needful in the shape of kicking almost impossible goals.

Continued ...

¹⁵⁷ HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

Hens H.—The little follower, has played in nearly all matches this season and bids fair to be one of the best followers in the colony.

Johnston Walter—The little wonder, generally plays back and defends goal like a Trojan.

Johnston William—Although not such a star as his brother, is undoubtedly a good man and a fine change follower.

Jones J.—Plays with his whole heart and soul, very good-natured, fast and next year should be an acquisition.

Ley A.—The captain, handles his men well and has rendered the club good service throughout the year by some excellent runs. A reliable mark and good kick.

Lang A.—A good place man has improved considerably this season and should next year be a good player in any position, fine long kick.

Morris J.—Was drafted out of second twenty, is a good player and with practice bids fair to out-do Kerley the crack follower, has a rather quick temper.

Neely A.—Has fallen off considerably but is still a good kick, left the team for a season but returned to his old love during the present year.

O'Brien—(Vice capt.) retired late in the season after having done good work and is now content with being a "barracker."

Tankard J.—Cannot be surpassed as a follower, has the best of temper, is a general favorite, and is noted all over the colony for his fair play, and admirable marking ability.

Todd H.—The finest forward in the colony, generally kicks from 60 to 70 yards either place or drop, and has netted the highest number of goals for his side this season, is a fine specimen of an athlete.

Todd A.—Is another splendid kick, but has fallen off considerably. He is not such a good all round player as his brother, but is very dangerous when he gets the ball at about 70 yards from goal.

Perkins H.—Is a sticker either as a place man or follower and has done good service for the blue and white's during season 1884. Was prevented through illness in taking part in all the matches.

Rue J.—Generally plays on the right wing, kicks either foot, but through injuries did not play in the latter end of season.

Rushford J.—Capital dodger very fleet of foot, kicks with left foot judging from this, his first year in a senior he promises to be one of the foremost players next year.

Shaw J.—The veteran follower, has still a good deal of pluck left, and is one of the hardest working players of the team.

Also published in the same newspaper that day also on page 3, an excellent account of the club's first annual concert and ball was reported in detail not seen before giving a very good account of club members by their first names in particular the first-20 players.^{158 159}

CONCERT.

Last Tuesday evening a concert and ball in connection with the above club, was held in the Hotham Town Hall. The building was packed to the doors. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed toward the entertainment Messrs. German (encored), Lording, A. E. Rae, Tankard (encored) and Aldred, Messrs. Clements and Tindall appeared in a horizontal bar act and were loudly applauded for their bold and daring feats. Mr. Clements who is the trainer of the football team put his men through the dumb-bell exercise, and deserves more than a passing word for the trouble and pains he has taken with the club and they may well thank that gentleman for the position they hold this year in the football field. Mr. D. A. Beaumont acted as conductor and Miss Ada Ashton as pianist. After the concert the hall was cleared and dancing commenced, to the strains of Ryan's band and was kept up to an early hour. The ball programmes for the occasion were exceedingly neat and appropriate of an entirely new design, there being a footballer in the act of kicking the ball while all round the edge were goal posts and a football. Mr. F. L. Brooke of Queensberry-street, catered for the occasion. Mr. F. Gray is to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which all the arrangements were carried

Continued ...

¹⁵⁸ CONCERT, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

¹⁵⁹ The authors believe the newspaper reported made an error in reporting the date of the concert. Out by a week or so. Given the level of detail, the draft article may have been pushed back a week.

out. The following local song composed by Mr. J. McIndoe, was sung at the conclusion of the programme by Mr. A. E. Rae to the tune of the "Bobbie's Lullaby," and as each player's name was mentioned there was loud applause.

We've come before you all to-night,
To sing a verse or two ;
About the local football club,
And about the members too.
So we ask you all to wish with us,
Success to the white and blue.

Enormous—Or we'll run you in &c.

We've got as good a team just now,
As any in the land ;
For forwards and for followers,
The best we can command,
So come and watch our play each match,
Help us with your applause.

Dick Houston says the Hotham will
Be the premier team next year,
He says Geelong next season
We'll never need to fear ;
Ley says we're Neely premiers now,
But we haven't got the luck.

Our Tankard will refresh us,
In the middle of our game,
While Harry Todd at 80 yards,
A goal adds to his name,
Our followers they watch them,
And Hens them all round.

Where can you find a man that can
Like Johnston save a goal.
While Alfred Bunce at his side
'Tis hard to get a goal.

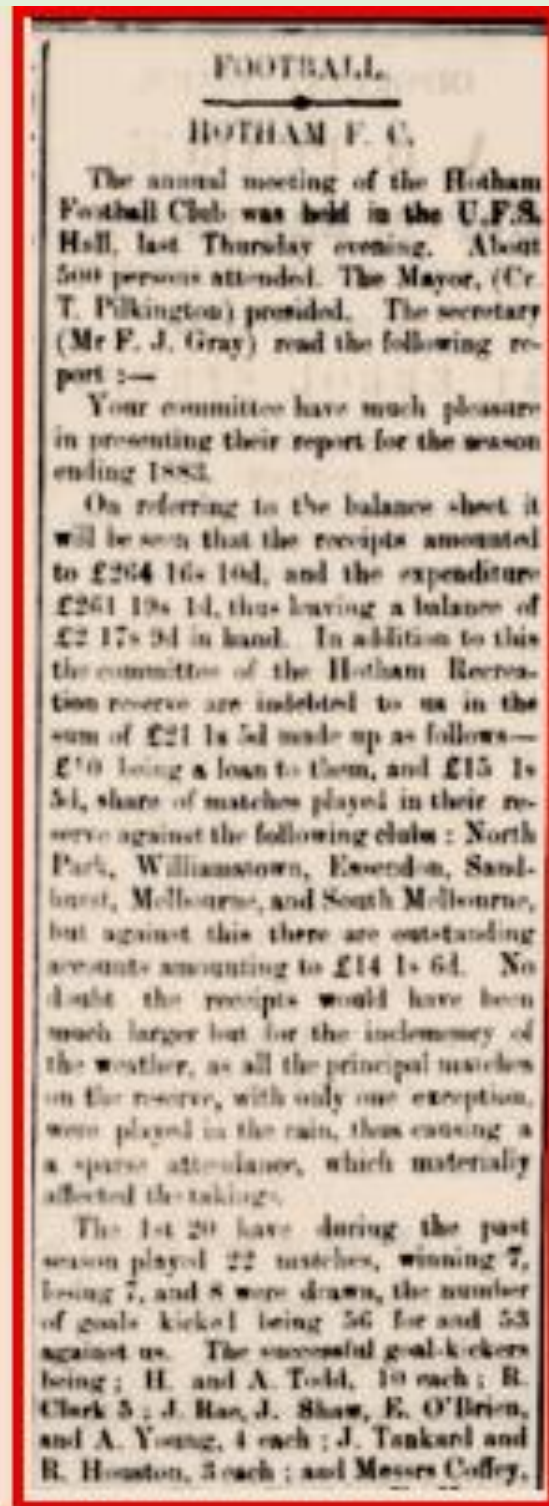
Let the enemy turn on every side,
They'll find good men and true.

To the Secretary of the club,
We will a tribute pay ;
He must be treated with respect,
Because you know he's Gray.
He says that he will keep his post,
And work hard for the club.

We hope next year our football club,
Will further laurels gain,
We'll strive to gain the premiership
With all our might and main.
In thanking you once more kind friends,
We trust you'll help us too.

We ask you in conclusion,
To join our club next year,
To our treasurer Davy Wilson,
We hope you all will steer.
He will not shun you I be bound,
Your name he will enroll.

Jack and Archie's elder brother Will is pictured below alongside a copy of the newspaper article showing outcomes of Hotham Football Club's 1884 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 28th March 1884 which saw him elected as the club's treasurer and VFA delegate:^{160 161}



¹⁶⁰ Hotham Football Club 1884 Annual General Meeting, and 1883 Annual Report, Wednesday [Evening] 28th March 1884, at UFA Hall [Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, in FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 4th April 1884, Page 3.

¹⁶¹ Player, Mr. Barwise awarded as it seems the Clubs best and fairest award for the first-20 team in 1884 and runner up, Mr. J. Shaw (2nd best and fairest or its equivalent).

Will and brother Jack Guest no doubt working for a living, and busy playing football and helping administer the North Melbourne (Hotham) Football Club during the 1884 season, their younger brother, Archie Guest (1866-1932) began playing for North's third-20 open age football team, known as Courtenay United against North's second twenty squad on Saturday 19th July 1884.

Courtenay United was essentially a pop-up team so to speak, due to the surge in local lads from St Mary's Church of England (Anglican) School and other surrounding schools of various denominations including St Mary's Star of the Sea, Catholic School wanting to play for North.

This third team was in mainly created in response to the increasing number of local children joining the club, a trend initiated by the club's St Mary's Anglican School, mother Church of England, school recruitment program that began in 1869 gained traction during the crisis year of 1876.^{162 163} Aged 18 years in 1884 and playing against men perhaps for the first time, Archie was joined by ex-St Mary's school mate. Tom "Dutchy" Peters. They and one of the two William brother also named below went on to play at Williamstown Football Club, competing there in the first-20 team from 1887 to 1890:^{164 165}



In 1874, like Archie's brother Will Guest, Tom "Dutchy" Peters from the Williamstown Football Club in 1887, who initially started as a spectator, played for Carlton against North Park in a fundraising match on October 8, 1887, when the Blues were short of 5 or 6.

Tom "Dutchy" Peters participated in 35 games and scored eight goals during his time at Williamstown from 1887 to 1891. He is also recognised for playing for North Melbourne and further had a stint with South Melbourne.¹⁶⁶

The Williamstown Football Club Heritage Officer reports that Archie Guest played at least 19 senior first-20 matches for Williamstown and additional games for affiliated North Williamstown Imperial, which Williamstown later absorbed. However, due to missing newspaper articles from that period, it is likely Guest played many more first-20 matches than documented during that period.

¹⁶² Consultation with the Administrator, St Mary's Anglican Parish, North Melbourne Anglican Parish, 2022.

¹⁶³ Dowling, G, 1997, "The North Story" NMFC.

¹⁶⁴ Hotham, Second Twenty v Courtney United, "Guest" picked to play for Courtenay United. 1890, North Melbourne Advertiser, FOOTBALL.

¹⁶⁵ ATHELETIC SPORTS, FOOTBALL, HOTHAM SECOND TWENTY v COURTNEY UNITED, Player, "Guest A," The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 18th July 1884, Page 4.

¹⁶⁶ Pennings, M, 'Origins of Australian Football' Vol. 5., p328.

If the Guest family's oral history serves correct, Jack and Archie's elder brother Will Guest also took to the field in 1886 playing also for the second-20 side, alongside the Guest brothers' family friend Alf Buncle.¹⁶⁷ Archie is pictured left, below, aged 46 years taken near Jeparit in 1912 and then aged 52 years, as Corporal Archibald Guest in a studio photograph taken Melbourn:



Archie Guest 1866-1932, Jeparit, 1912



Corporal Archie Guest 1918/9

The pictured below is cropped from North Melbourne, come Hotham's first ever premiership team, the 1886 second-20 VFA premiers. Could this be Archie Guest aged 20 years?



Archie Guest 1866-1932, NMFC,
Second-20, Premiership Player, 1886

Will and Archie's brother Jack Guest (1862-1932) was captain and coach of the second-20 in 1886. He then coached North's second-20 to back premiership and coach the reserves also in 1888.

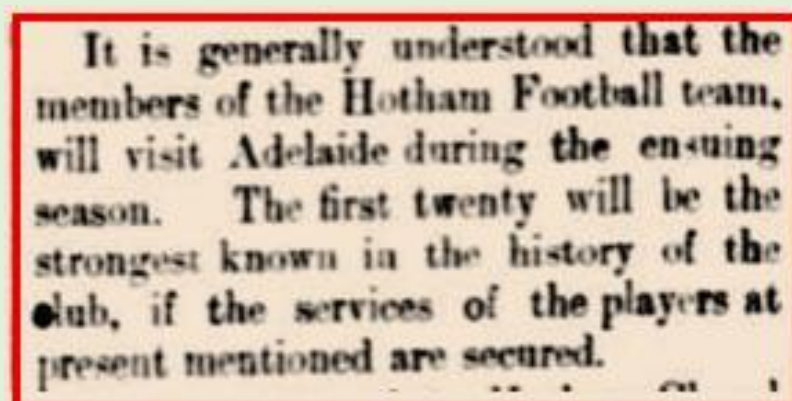
¹⁶⁷ Refer also Courtenay Football Club established by at least 1883; and fixtured to play other teams in the junior league, in Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 14th April 1883, Page 3, Football.

1885

Throughout 1884-5 and until settled, debate raged among the people of Hotham on whether or not the town and no doubt the football club should revert back to its original North Melbourne name: ¹⁶⁸



Also captured from newspapers earlier that year was the club's mooted visit to Adelaide to play a short series of friendly matches against senior South Australian clubs: ¹⁶⁹



¹⁶⁸ North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 30th January 1885, Page 2-3, THE ADVERTISER.

¹⁶⁹ North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 30th January 1885, Page 3, THE ADVERTISER.

The wearer of “White and Blue” was compelled to send a letter to the editor of the North Melbourne Advertiser on Friday the 19th of June 1885, raising concern of the youth recruitment practice at the club, or lack thereof, and over training the Hotham team by senior trainer Mr. John Clements .¹⁷⁰

It appears the Wearer of White and Blue was specific about the relative lesser amount Hotham paid the Royal Park Junior Football Club compared to what Carlton paid to their district junior clubs and Hotham preparing to well its senior footballers:

THE HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR,—SIR,—Permit me through your valuable columns to relieve my mind a little by discussing one or two points in connection with the above club. Being a thoroughly staunch supporter of the white and blue I venture to assert that there are two men in the team not fit for any senior twenty in Melbourne, while good juniors who only require a little encouragement and coaching would if asked, be only too delighted to join. For the benefit of all who may not be aware, it is essential on the part of the senior clubs of the colony to pay special attention to the juniors of their own suburbs, and while it is a recognised fact that Carlton for instance sends regularly cheques for five guineas to the Star of Carlton and Brunswick Clubs, which in an inducement in itself for the rising players to join the senior, the Hotham send the best junior at the present time viz., the North Park a paltry £1 note, and expect the members of the latter club to follow them everywhere in the expectation of playing. Surely the committee of management are not blind to the undeniable fact that next year will find many of the North Park as well as the Royal Park players drafted into the rank of some of the seniors, and in all common sense why not into the Hotham! This is a question the committee will do well to consider. Another equally important point is the training. For instance the team play on Saturday and it is only about Monday evening they feel them-

elves O. K. after the usual amount of knocking about, then Tuesday night they train (and indeed this is no child's play) then Wednesday they have for a rest (but how many do rest) then Thursday night train again, and on Saturday strip to all appearances in grand fettle but, Sir, they are with two or three exceptions 'over fit.' Four or five seasons when they had no training they could play on a ground more fit for swimming on than for football, but this year, under the tuition of Mr. Clements, they can hold their own and even more on wet or dry ground if not overtrained, and now that the season is getting on I would make a suggestion which I am certain the majority of the supporters will bear me out in, and that is, that the club train but once a week, and that once on a Wednesday night, and I am sure it would be more beneficial to the health of the players, and at the same time show a better result at the end of the season. These remarks are made in the full interest of the club, for Hotham has this year a good team that if properly managed will be the means of wiping out many an old defeat and adding glorious victories to their football records. Trusting you will insert this, I remain, Dear Sir,

A WEARER OF WHITE AND BLUE.

¹⁷⁰ Mr. Clements taken to be the coach of North's first-20 team in 1884 and 1885, see: HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 19th June 1885, Page 3; c.f., CONCERT, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

Mr. John Clements, offered a reply and his is taken to be the senior coach, and found to be by his own hand, the Hotham Football Club's first-20 trainer in 1885. He takes "A wearer of White and Blue" to task on the matter of Hotham players being critiqued for being "over-fit." Mr Clements reply is direct and restores confidence in the reader that North is on the right track to bring success to the club in the professional VFA competition:¹⁷¹

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR, SIR,—In your last issue there appeared a letter signed by 'A wearer of White and Blue,' in which among other things the writer complains of the training of the Hotham football team and says 'with two or three exceptions the men go into the field overfit,' and considers they should only train one night a week and that night should be Wednesday. Now Sir, I think the writer must be a wearer of White and Blue petticoats for surely one of the sterner sex would not make himself look so ridiculous as to say a football team cannot stand training two nights a week. My advice to those men who get *overfit* with two nights exercise is to turn up football and go in for Lawn Tennis or Croquet. Now I suppose the two or three exceptions White and Blue refers to are, those men that do not turn up to training regularly. I venture to say that they are the men that are *overfit* and not the regular attendants at the room. Again White and Blue says 'four or five seasons when the Hotham had no training they could play on a ground more fit for swimming than football.' If by this statement he is drawing a comparison between the team of four or five years ago and the present one, I think the sooner he gives up being a football critic the better. Trusting you will insert this in your valuable columns I am, Yours etc.

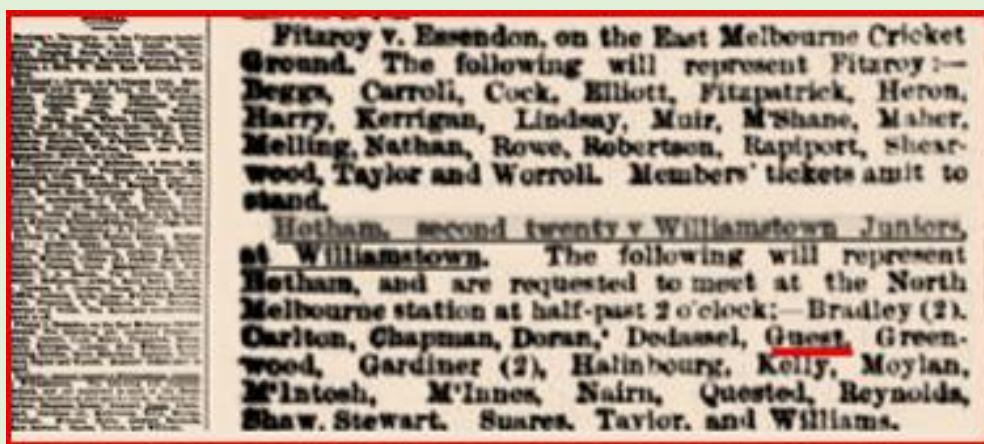
JOHN CLEMENTS.
Trainer Hotham Football Club.

¹⁷¹ HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th June 1885, Page 3, Mr John Clements, Trainer HFC, reply.

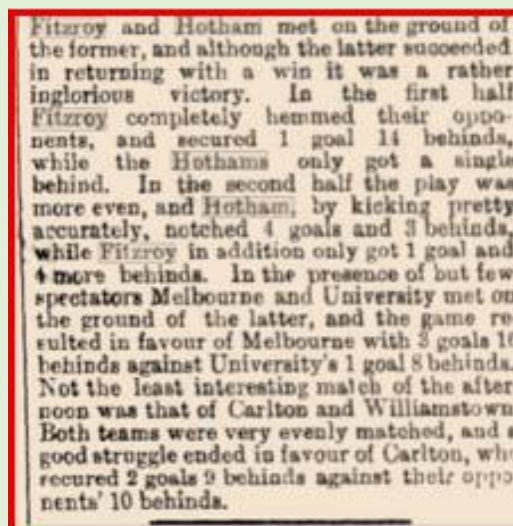
On Saturday 1st August 1885 at Williamstown, the present author's grand uncle, Will Guest, born William Langford Guest (1860-1922) is found lining up for NMFC second-20 team against Williamstown Junior Football Club. This is the season prior to him becoming a premiership player along with his younger brother Archie Guest (1866-1932) and North's second twenty-20 team captain and coach in 1885, Will and Archie's middle brother Jack Guest (1862-1922), born John Henry Guest.

As mentioned previously after Archie played alongside his two brothers winning the second-2- premiership along with his other team mates Archie then crossed over to Williamstown in 1887 which was close to where he began working as a clerk with the Victorian railways in the Williamston North workshops administration office.

Listed below as players are: Bradley, Bradley, Carlton, Chapman, Doran, Dedassel, Guest, Greenwood, Gardiner, Gardiner, Halinbourg, Kelly, Moylan, McIntosh, McInnes, Nairn, Qusted, Reynolds, Shaw, Stewart, Suares, Taylor and Williams ¹⁷²



News of VFA matches was widely read and as is seen below Hotham's match against Fitzroy, played in Fitzroy was reported in a popular South Australian newspaper: ¹⁷³



¹⁷² ATHLETIC SPORTS, Hotham v Williamstown Juniors, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 31st July 1885, Page 4.

¹⁷³ FOOTBALL NOTES, South Australian Register, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday 22nd August 1885, Page 3.

Hotham's player list, first-20, selected to line up against Richmond on Saturday August 29th 1885, is shown below and makes for an account of players: Alessio, Buncle, Bailey, Baines, Cherry, Flowers, Hems, Houston, Halliberg, Johnston, Morris, McCracken, McIntosh, W. McCarthy, Neely, O'Brien, Rojo, Swan, Sykes, Tankard, and A. Todd: ¹⁷⁴

Hotham v. Richmond, at Richmond.—Hotham team will be chosen from :—Alessio, Buncle, Bailey, Baines, Cherry, Flowers, Hems, Houston, Halliberg, Johnston, Morris, M'Cracken, M'Intosh, W. M'Carthy, Neely, O'Brien, Rojo, Swan, Sykes, Tankard, A. Todd. The above are requested to meet at the Town-hall, Hotham, at 2 sharp. The Richmond team will be selected from the following :—Crohan, Conlon, Elder, Graham, Howarth, Harper, Jackman, Leighton, O'Shanassy, Purcell, Stewart, Syle, Searie, Stephens, Smith, Taylor, Wookey, Kelso, Wells, O'Shea, Owen, Christie, and S. Tavior.

¹⁷⁴ SPORTING INTELLIGENCE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th August 1885, Page 10.

1886

The article below confirms Jack Guest (1862-1922), former Hotham Cricket Club Secretary's¹⁷⁵ appointment as Hotham *come* North Melbourne's elected second-20 team secretary, *come* coach in 1886:¹⁷⁶

THE ADVERTISER, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1886.

FOOTBALL.

(BY 'VIGILANT'.)

HOTHAM V. ESSENDON.—This match was played at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in the presence of full 10,000 spectators and contrary to expectations resulted in an easy victory for Essendon who scored 4 goals and 12 behinds to Hotham's 11 behinds. In reality the winners only got 3 goals, the fourth one being accidentally kicked by Brown of Hotham. The majority of Hotham players were satisfied when one or two of the Essendon team admitted that the goal umpire made a mistake, but nevertheless competent men should be appointed to the positions of goal umpires as if the game had been depending on the result of the goal in question, it would be very hard on the club having to put up with the loss of a match through the incompetency of the goal umpire. During the game which was well contested up to 1 time a number of the Hotham team seemed to be suddenly imbued with the idea that they were only on the field to be looked at, as time after time I saw an Essendon player go up and secure the ball unopposed although a Hothamite was standing only a few feet away and taken altogether, I don't remember ever seeing the blues and whites play a tamer game and had it not been for the praiseworthy efforts of about half a dozen who I will mention later on, well the defeat would have been crushing. As it was I hope the committee, all of whom were present will see that justice is done to a few more of the second twenty, who if I am informed rightly have about four men in their team really worth a show and who will, if given a show, do credit to themselves and the club. T. Crombie, E. Berrier and Queested are worth a trial and should get it. Crombie I have long had a fancy for and Berrier pleased me immensely at Ballarat on Easter Saturday where he played a fine

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

The usual weekly meeting in connection with this club was held on Tuesday evening last, Mr. J. Gardiner presiding. Some business correspondence was dealt with

after which the resignation of Mr. Nightingale as secretary of the second twenty was accepted, Mr. J. Guest being elected to the vacancy subject to the approval of the second twenty. Mr. J. Laurens, M.L.A. forwarded the sum of £1 on the occasion of his being re-elected a patron of the club, and Mr. Courtney also sent £1 as a donation to the funds of the club. Both remittances were received with thanks. Owing to the Intercolonial Match next Saturday no others are to be contested, and therefore the duty of picking the ordinary Saturday team did not devolve on the Match committee last Tuesday evening, and after a discussion affecting some matters of detail in connection with the affairs of the club the meeting adjourned.

It is probable that Essendon will be deprived of the services of Boyd McLeod for the remainder of this season. It is stated that he is going to Queensland.

On Thursday the Essendon team proceeded to Tasmania to play three matches against the Islanders on the 22nd, 24th and 29th, returning to Melbourne on Wednesday, June 2nd, to meet the Melbourne on the 5th June, after which they play Geelong and South Melbourne.

Moonee Ponds Juniors v. Clifton Hill 2nd twenty resulted in a draw in favor of the Clifton Hill who kicked 2 goals 10 behinds to 2 goals 8 behinds kicked by F. Boxall and H. Plummer. Great praise is due to the juniors who played an uphill game from the start, their opponents being nearly double their size. Those who played best for the former were: F. Boxall, H. Plummer, F. Binney, Bruce and P. Delaney as did also Jack and Church for the latter.

Parkville v. Parkside this match resulted in a win for the former by 2 goals 8 behinds, kicked by Butler and Madden to 8 behinds. Cooper Mills and Mullen played well for Parkville as did Marnie and Goughell for the losers.

We are glad to see the new pavilion being erected by Mr. H. Lording architect, on the Hotham Recreation Reserve is progressing towards completion. It will greatly relieve the present rather isolated look of the reserve, and will undoubtedly prove a comfort and convenience both to

LECTURE ON NEW GUINEA.

Dr. Doyle Glanville who acted as staff surgeon to the late Sir Peter Scratchley's New Guinea expedition delivered a most interesting lecture on New Guinea in the New Hall, Newmarket, on Thursday evening, in aid of the school prize fund. The Mayor (Mr. John Sutton), presided, but there was only a limited attendance. Dr. Glanville gave his lecture from copious notes made during his travels in New Guinea and illustrated his remarks by some fine sketches executed roughly by himself for the occasion, which were received with loud applause by the audience. After referring to the geographical features and resources of the country, the lecturer described at length the savage customs prevailing amongst some of the comparatively unknown tribes who required to be treated with the greatest tact and firmness, as one false step might result in a tragedy. He spoke in high terms of the missionary labors which had done a great deal to enlighten the people who had no recognised religion but believed in the existence of evil spirits. During the cruise of the H.M.S. Diamond a native came on board and stated he was the murderer of Captain Miller but as he did not want any more trouble about the matter he had brought some shells as a peace offering. As his story was borne out by other natives he was arrested much to his astonishment and detained. Another native whom it was alleged had killed Captain Fryer was also soon after captured. Great cruelty had been perpetrated by labor vessels calling at the island for recruits for service in Queensland, and occasionally natives had been kidnapped. At one village they called at he purchased a skull for scientific purposes for three plugs of tobacco and no sooner was this known than the natives came off to the ship with heaps of skulls, jaw bones, thigh bones, etc., and offered them for sale. The principal food consisted of yams and coconuts but animal food was very scarce and there was no pasture although careful search was made. The climate was not at all suitable for white men to live in and the virulent fevers which prevailed were decidedly against settlers. In conclusion Dr. Glan-

¹⁷⁵ North Melbourne Cricket Club established 1855 playing at Graham's Paddock near the Benevolent Society, Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2, The Age, Saturday 13th May 1933, page 18.

¹⁷⁶ HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday, May 21st 1886, Page 3. Mr. J. Guest elected to Secretary, Second-Twenty, taken to mean Coach.

New rules for the club were introduced on the 26th February 1886, adding that the coach of the second-20 shall also keep minutes of the second-20 selection committee:¹⁷⁷

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB. A special meeting of the above club was held at Mr. J. Clement's Committee Rooms, Errol Street, last Tuesday evening. The meeting was called by advertisement, the attendance, though small, was thoroughly representative. M. J. Gardiner occupied the chair, and briefly stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of forming new rules for the benefit of the club. A letter was received from Dr. Ross, who, as one of the club's patrons, regretted his inability to attend, but trusted he would receive the united support of the influential club at the coming elections. It was moved and seconded that the letter be received, and that the Football Club give all the support in its power to secure the return of the Doctor, who had on all occasions responded most liberally to the funds of the club, and had done his utmost to assist the reserve committee in permanently reserving the football ground. The rules were then read, a copy of which is appended.— 1. CONSTITUTION—That the club shall be called the "Hotham Football Club," and shall not be dissolved or its name changed, without the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present, at a meeting specially called for that purpose. 2. CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP—Any gentleman wishing to become a member of the Club, must be proposed by a member of the committee, and seconded by another, either at the annual general meeting, or at a committee meeting; a majority of members present in either case to elect him. 3. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP—That the committee of management shall be empowered to elect, for one season only, any gentleman it may deem worthy to deserve honorary membership. 4. MEMBERS VOTING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—Any gentleman elected as a member of the club at the annual general meeting, shall not be entitled to vote at that meeting. 5. BONA-FIDE MEMBERS—That none but bona-fide members shall play in any club match, or exercise the privilege of voting at any general meeting. 6. SUBSCRIPTIONS—That the annual subscription for non-playing members shall be five shillings; playing members i.e., those whom the committee of management or second twenty committee may select during the season for their matches, shall be exempt from entrance fee.	26. INTERPRETATION OF RULES—That in case of any question arising not provided for by these rules, or as to the interpretation thereof, the opinion of the committee of management shall be taken and acted upon. 27. BYE-LAWS—The committee of management shall have power to make such bye-laws as may be deemed advisable for carrying out the objects of the club, and to vary or rescind such bye-laws from time to time if necessary. 28. ALTERATION OF RULES—That no rule of the club shall be altered or rescinded without the concurrence of a majority of members present at a meeting specially called for that purpose. 29. PLAYING RULES—That the club recognises and is bound at all times by the playing code of rules of the Victorian Football Association, and by any alterations or amendments made by that body. BYE-LAWS. 1. FINANCIAL—All matters of finance in connection with the club shall emanate from the committee of management. 2. No money shall be expended on behalf of the club, unless with the sanction of the committee of management, and all accounts for payment must be submitted, passed, and endorsed by the chairman, at a properly constituted meeting before being disbursed. 3. That power should be given to the secretary and treasurer to sign cheques to the amount of £5 in cases of emergency. 4. The accounts of the club shall be audited by three members appointed by the Committee of Management, in each year, and be submitted with the report at the annual general meeting held in March. 5. GENERAL—The senior office bearer of the club present shall take the chair at all committee meetings. 6. The office bearers and members of committee shall retain their seats and votes during the summer vacation, and up to election of their successors at the annual general meeting. 7. The honorary secretaries shall keep correct minutes of all committee and general meetings, conduct correspondence under the direction of the committee of management, and in general perform functions usually appertaining to his office. 8. The committee of management may in view of the arduous duties imposed upon the honorary secretary, appoint a secretary at a salary not to exceed in any one season £25. He will not have a vote on committees, and will not be allowed to
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Continued ...

¹⁷⁷ HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th February 1886, Page 3.

7. PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS—The annual subscription shall be due on the 1st of May; any member not paying his subscription on or before the 1st of June ensuing, shall cease to be a member of the club; but the committee are empowered to replace his name upon the list if sufficient cause be given for so doing. Gentlemen admitted as members after the annual general meeting must pay subscription on election.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—That an annual general meeting of the club shall be held in the month of March in each year, for the purpose of receiving and adoption or otherwise of report and balance sheet. The election of office-bearers, presentation of testimonials and any other business to be submitted to the meeting.

9. OFFICE-BEARERS—That the office-bearers of the club shall consist of four patrons, a president, six vice-presidents, honorary secretary, ex-officio members of management committee, treasurer and second twenty secretary, who shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election.

10. ELECTION OF CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN—That the members of the first twenty shall meet prior to the first senior match, and elect the captain and vice-captain for the ensuing season.

11. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT—That a general committee of seven members shall be elected annually, at the annual general meeting, who with the office-bearers of the club, including captain of first twenty, shall constitute the committee of management, five members to form a quorum at any meeting of committee. The committee of management shall annually elect three non-players and two players, whose duties in conjunction with the captain shall be to select teams for the first twenty, three to form a quorum, secretary to be ex-officio member.

12. COMMITTEE MEETINGS—That the committee of management shall meet every Tuesday evening during the season at 8 p.m., for the transaction of the club business.

13. NON-ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS—That any member who may be elected an office-bearer, excepting the patrons, president, vice-presidents and captain, absenting himself from three consecutive committee meetings without sending a satisfactory explanation, shall be held to have vacated his office and it shall be in the power of the committee to fill up such vacancy.

take any responsible action on behalf of the club, but will be required to carry out all the directions of the committee and keep all the necessary records, and will be liable to instant dismissal by them if he fail to give satisfaction.

9. The treasurer shall receive the contributions of members, and other moneys due to the club in accordance with the manner provided by the rules and by-laws, keep a correct account of the income and expenditure, and submit a monthly abstract thereof to the committee of management, pay all moneys into a bank account in the club's name, and have all cheques for disbursements countersigned by the secretary. In the absence of the treasurer, cheques may be signed by secretary and a member of committee appointed by the committee of management.

10. The second twenty secretary shall keep a correct record of the meetings of the second twenty committee attend the weekly meetings of the committee of management, and read minutes, correspondence, and furnish every matter of interest in connection with the second twenty.

11. The delegates appointed to act on the Victorian Football Association are required to keep the committee of management posted up with the doings and transactions of the association.

12. The Captain is required to inform the committee immediately after the occurrence in the field of any act of disobedience, bad language, or conduct calculated to lower the dignity of the club, or morally affect it.

13. Playing members will be provided at the commencement of every season with the recognised club cap.

14. Every member will be furnished with a copy of these rules.

LODGE MEETINGS.

The half-yearly meeting of the Concoria Lodge 184, U.A.O.D., was held in their new lodge room, Hit or Miss hotel, Villiers street Hotham, on the 4th inst., when the report and balance sheet were read and adopted. They showed the lodge to be in a very flourishing condition. At the end of the half-year ending June the total amount of funds were in the incidental 13s 1d, sick and funeral £4 18s 6d. Total £49 11s 7d with 31 financial members, at the end of the December half-year the funds are incidental £3 7s 10d, sick and funeral £64 9s 11d. Total £69 17s 9d or an increase of £20 6s 2d with 22 financial members. The

Continued ...

14. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE VICTORIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION—The committee of management shall annually appoint two delegates to represent the club on the Victorian Football Association.

15. SECOND TWENTY COMMITTEE—A meeting of the second twenty to be called within fourteen days from annual meeting for the purpose of electing a committee of five, whose duties shall be in conjunction with the second twenty secretary to select teams and to look after the welfare and interests of the second twenty.

16. SECOND TWENTY CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN—The captain and vice-captain of the second twenty shall be annually elected at the first match of the season by the playing members present at the time, and shall be ex-officio members of the second twenty committee.

17. SUB COMMITTEE—The committee of management shall appoint from time to time all sub-committees for the management of concerts, sports, and other matters of special interest that may require investigation.

18. UNIFORM—That the uniform of the club shall consist of blue and white jersey, knickerbockers and cap, and blue and white striped hose. It is compulsory on the part of members of the first twenty to wear this uniform in its entirety.

19. MEMBERS TO PLAY IN MATCHES—That all members to play in matches shall be chosen by the respective match committees. In the event of any member chosen to play in a match being absent, the emergency man to play in the order named, but should they be absent the captain must then act on the advice of the members of the match committee present on the ground to fill the vacancy.

20. CAPTAIN IN THE FIELD—The captain shall have the sole management of the team entrusted to his command, and decide in all matters of dispute which may arise in the field of play.

21. MEMBERS DISOBEYING CAPTAIN—Any member disobeying the orders of the captain in the field, using abusive or bad language, shall be fined as the committee may determine.

22. FINES—That all fines incurred by a member must be paid within fourteen days after being demanded by the secretary, otherwise the defaulters name shall be expunged from the list of members.

23. EXPULSION—That as a means of getting rid of an obnoxious member, the committee of management on receiving a complaint signed by twelve members of the club (provided they consider the complaint of sufficient moment) shall call a special committee meeting, when the expulsion of the said member shall be proceeded with, the majority to decide, and that one week's notice of such intention be given to the member complained of.

24. SPECIAL MEETINGS—That on a requisition in writing, signed by twelve members being delivered to the secretary he shall, by giving a week's notice of the same, call a special general meeting of the members by advertisement, the requisition to state the object of such meeting. Twelve members shall be required to form a quorum.

25. VOTING AT MEETINGS—The nature of every meeting shall be determined by the show of hands, unless a ballot be demanded.

On Saturday the 8th May 1886, Hotham defeated Fitzroy in a tough encounter in Fitzroy. Players named for Hotham that day included R.S. Houston (captain, known also as R. Houston), Joesph Tankard, Wal Johnson, G. Sykes, Tom Peters, William Johnson, Bailey, S. Brown, Eddy Fox, W. Wallace, H. Hems, K. Cherry and R. Nairn. In addition, with other news regarding Hotham also included in the column below, learned is Hotham's president in 1886 was Mr. M. Montgomerie:

FOOTBALL.

HOTHAM V. FITZROY.

(BY 'VEGILANT'.)

These two clubs met last Saturday for the first time this season on the Fitzroy cricket ground, and after a very rough game the Hotham were returned victors by a score of 3 goals 9 behinds to 2 goals 7 behinds. Peters (2) and Wm. Johnston were the goal kickers for the winners. W. Wells, an old South Melbourne player, was central umpire, but I cannot compliment him on the way he performed his duties, as both teams were very much dissatisfied with his decisions right through the game. The principal features of the was the superb play of R. S. Houston for Hotham and J. Worrall for Fitzroy, both of whom fairly carried all before them, and repeatedly brought loud plaudits from the spectators, of whom there were about 4000 present.

R. Houston played a splendid game, and fairly played all over his opponents, the skilful manner in which he handled the ball and passed his men being well worth going a long way to see.

Joe Tankard looked especially neat and trim, but he was hardly up to his last Saturday's form, his kicking being the chief feature of his play on Saturday.

Wal. Johnson played a sterling good game, and I don't think I remember seeing him ever tossed about so much, but I am glad to say he came out none the worse for it, and will no doubt give a good account of himself and his men next Saturday at the K. M. C. Ground.

G. Sykes was in rare form, and there is no doubt he is one of the coming men for Hotham. He played a fine game from start to finish.

H. Todd kicked and marked splendidly, and well deserved the applause so frequently bestowed on him.

Wm. Johnston and Ed. Dwyer each showed good form, but the extremely rough game made these light men appear to less advantage than is usually the case.

Tom Peters kicked two goals very cleverly, the last and winning goal in particular being a regular ringer.

S. Brown and Eddy Fox were both knocked about a lot, but nevertheless worked hard for their side.

W. Wallace and H. Hems both played a fine game, Hems in particular showing last half something splendid.

K. Cherry and R. Nairn also strove hard for their side, and though not singularly successful they deserve mention for their efforts.

Before concluding I must again mention the fine play of Worrall, the Fitzroy captain, who right through the match won the admiration of both friend and foe for the manly and splendid exhibition of football displayed by him.

Hotham meet Essendon next Saturday, and if they only play to one another and not try to run so much, I have no hesitation in saying that the wearers of the scarlet and black will have to be in their best form to hold their own with the perpendicular blue and white.

feelings towards him. The Match Committee then picked the following team to play against Essendon on Saturday:—Alessio, Bailey, Brown, Cherry, Fox, Hems, Houston, Johnston (2), McIntosh, Nairn, Peters, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Wallace, Lang, Skinner, Haydon, O'Brien.

Emergencies—Swan, Anderson, and A. Todd.

Players picked for the next match v Essendon scheduled for Saturday the 15th May 1886 were named also: Alessio, Bailey, Brown, Cherry, Fox, Hems, Houston, Johnstone (2), McIntosh, Nairn, Peters, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Wallace, Lang, Skinner, Haydon, O'Brien with emergencies being Swan, Anderson, and A. Todd:¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁸ FOOTBALL, FITZROY v HOTHAM, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 14th May 1886, Page 3.

Submitted below is a report about the game Hotham v Geelong played Saturday 22nd May 1887 in front of 17,000 spectators. Named are the following players and/or members of the Hotham Football Club in 1887 named in this article: M. O'Brien; Anderson, Alessio, Bailey, Brown, William Christian, Fox, Hayden, Hems, Houston, Horrocks, Johnston [Will], McIntosh, McNerney, O'Brien, Peters, Robertson, Todd H, Tankard, Wallace, Todd. A, Gardiner, J, Fuhrhop H.:¹⁷⁹



¹⁷⁹ FOOTBALL, HOTHAM v GEELONG, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 28th May 1886, Page 3.

On Saturday the 19th June 1886, with a very detailed account of the match given below, it is found Hotham played a drawn game against Richmond:¹⁸⁰

Hotham v. Richmond. -These two clubs met for the first time this season on the Hotham Reserve, and contrary to expectations the game resulted in a draw. Wal Johnston led the locals who were minus the services of H. Todd and Allesio.

Graham for the visitors lost the toss and kicked off towards the north goal. Wal Johnston marked the kick off and the sphere quickly travelled to the Richmond end where Tankard from a mark ten yards in front only scored a behind from what let appeared to be a certain goal, but this was in not the only easy chance thrown away by In the locals as time after time they lost on chances which any member of the second to twenty would have been ashamed of. After the kick off from behind, Wallace and Tankard exchanged marks, and Williams scored second behind from another easy chance. Peters put in some nice work which ended problems marking at a rather awkward angle, bet this consistent little player eat proved equal to the occasion, and by a neat kick scored first goal for Hotham. On the kick off from the centre, the locals again prevailed, Robertson, Tankard and Sykes showing splendid form, while. Wooley, Sykes and Taylor were doing yeoman's service for the yellow and black. At the first quarter, the game stood t goal to nil.

On changing ends some very even play he followed for a time, but the locals gradually worked the ball to the visitors strong- behind where the backs were working splendidly, but the locals were not to be denied after scoring two behinds, Robertson a with a nice kick scored number 2 for Holtham. Heims, Tankard and Wallace re were very conspicuous for the locals, as was Smith, Taylor and Graham for the visitors. Off from the centre again and the visitors now prevailed, the locals evidently y-holding their opponents too cheap, and Syle, Elder, and Hill exchanging marks which quickly ended in Owen marking close up to the locals' goals and by a nice kick he piloted the leather beautifully between the uprights thus scoring first goal had for Richmond. After a deal of hard work, Hill from a scrimmage scored second goal for Richmond. Sykes, Houston and Tankard forced the leather along the east wing where Peters marked cleverly about 40 yards in front and third a goal to Hotham was the result, after the kick of the leather was at once sent in front of the visitors a goal where Neely marked about 15 yards in front, but to the Hotham supporters disgust he just scored a behind. Half-time now rang out and the game: stood: 'Hotham 3 goals six behinds, Richmond 2 goals 3 behinds. After the usual respite the visitors started with renewed energy Graham and others doing a lot of good work and in a very short space of time they were rewarded by Kelso who marked front of Hill scoring third goal. When three quarter bell-rang the locals were pressing the visitors hard. The final change of ends Being made the Hotham players at once besieged the visitors goal and for twenty minutes hemmed their opponents in.

At twenty past 5 in the twilight the bell rang the locals having scored 10 behinds to nil in the last quarter, thus as is shown by the past two or three matches played to by the locals that their fine this season is behinds, not goals. The game ended in Hotham 3 goals 19 behinds, Richmond 3 goals 6 behinds. It is worthy of note in that in three out of the last four matches played by the wearers of the blue and white, they have scored no less a number than 48 behinds, while their foes the University, Melbourne and Richmond have a total of 6 goals for 12 behinds between them. I will refrain from saying anything about the above comparison but suffice it to say that the principal cause is the care less manner in which the players without exception, kick for goal and in nine cases out of ten ignoring the place kick which is by far and away the surest method of piloting the oval between the uprights. In the game above recorded Tankard was by far and away the best of the forty, and was ably assisted by Sykes, Robertson, or Johnston 2, Houston, Hems and Wal Johnson. Mr P. H. Roy was umpire and fulfilled his role in every impartial manner.

¹⁸⁰ FOOTBALL by Vigilant, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 25th June 1886, Page 4.

The author's grand uncle, Will Guest, joining the likes of Messrs. J.H. Gardner, Sutcliffe, Harcourt, Robertson and Ley continued as a general committee member of the club in 1886. Also marked are Will's close friends since all attending school at St Mary's Alfred Buncle and Sam Butt:¹⁸¹

FOOTBALL NOTES.

By "O.C."

This week I have the pleasure of presenting a brief account of the Hotham Football Club, an institution which has survived the most varying fortunes, and is now in a fair way of becoming a permanent success. The first move in the direction of forming a club in Hotham was taken many years back, the original title of the organisation being the North Melbourne Football Club. For some time the northerners flourished under this name, but presently ill-fortune attended them, the termination of a series of trials being a temporary amalgamation with the old Albert Park club. This arrangement did not answer long, however, the second season witnessing its discontinuance. On the 12th of April, 1877, the Hotham club proper was inaugurated, a meeting for the purpose being held at Sutcliffe's Turf Club Hotel on that date. The worthy host, Mr. Sutcliffe, was elected president, and honourably filled the important office for five consecutive years, during which period the foundation of that reputation which the club now enjoys was firmly laid. Mr. Harcourt succeeded Mr. Sutcliffe, and presided over affairs for three years, at the close of which, Mr. Montgomery, the present president, was elected to the chief position. But few of the names associated with the formation of the club remain on the list of its active patrons. There are, however, three which I feel should be mentioned in an article of this description, namely, J. Gardiner, the first treasurer, H. Fuhrop, the pioneer captain, and W. M'Lean, who acted as the first vice. Throughout the term of the club's life, these enthusiasts have stood in and by it, and, with the earlier presidents and a few others, they may justly feel proud of the outcome of their labours. Mr. Fuhrop twice commanded the forces, the post of captain having also been filled at various times by J. Robertson, A. Ley, G. Bruce,

A. Pullen, A. Buncle, S. Butt, and the present skipper, Walter Johnson. Perhaps the most important event in the club's history was the amalgamation, for ground purposes, with the local cricket club. This took place in 1882, the games having previously been played in the Royal Park. In 1882, the games having previously been played in the Royal Park. Although at first the field was anything but suitable for football purposes during wet weather, the fact of having a ground seems to have exercised an important influence on the club's prosperity, as since its acquirement steady progress has marked each successive year's experience. Especially has this been the case recently, and the 1886 season will long be remembered as that in which the new and commodious pavilion, which now adorns the enclosure, was erected. A suitable finishing touch in the shape of a handsome clock, has just been put to the new structure by Mr. Steele, a prominent local resident. It is hoped that his example may incite other leading residents (whose interest in the club's movements are now happily being roused) to similar handsome deeds. The enterprise shown by the controllers (under the secretarship of Mr. E. Lawrence) of the Recreation Reserve—by which name the ground is known—is certainly deserving of encouragement. In addition to the building referred to, there has been considerable filling in; and finally, a splendid system of drainage, whereby the turf may be kept properly dry, has been carried out, at a cost of some £200. The total amount expended cannot be much less than fifteen hundred pounds, and any company, whether recreative or otherwise, which lays out such a sum to the public advantage, has indisputable claims to public sympathy and support. The executive consists of the president, Mr. Montgomery; six vice-presidents, Messrs. W. Rae, J. Pilkington, J. M'Calman, J. Gardiner, J. Green and L. Coulbell; honorary secretary, Mr. J. Munro; honorary treasurer, Mr. F. M. Evans; and seven general committeemen, Messrs. F. Gray, R. Houston, W. Guest, A. Ley, H. Fuhrop, F. Mitchell, and J. Ballinger. There is also a match committee, composed of three players, and four non-playing members, to whom the selection of all teams is entrusted.

The second team, coached by middle brother Jack Guest from 1886 to 1888 achieved North Melbourne Football Club's first-ever premierships in the prestigious VFA competition in 1886 and 1887. Jack made history as North Melbourne's inaugural premiership coach and the first in the club's history to secure back-to-back titles.

¹⁸¹ FOOTBALL NOTES, by O.C, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 28th August 1886, Page 6.

The Williamstown Chronicle reports Hotham played Footscray at Footscray on the 9th October 1886, defeating Footscray 4 goals 1 behinds to 2 goal 8 behinds: ¹⁸²

HOTHAM V. FOOTSCRAY.

The above clubs met for the first time on the Footscray Football reserve on Saturday last, in the presence of 2,000 people. The match was arranged mainly for the benefit of the Footscray club's funds, and as it was not under the auspices of the association, the team were somewhat mixed, the most noticeable inclusion being Morris, a prominent player of the Essendon club, who on Saturday assisted Hotham. In the absence of their respective captains, H. Todd, of Hotham, and Carlton, of Footscray, acted as leaders. The former won the toss, and decided to kick with a slight breeze into the eastern goal. The play for the first half was very even, but somewhat uninteresting. Each side had three chances to score, but the Hotham through the good kicking of Peters were able to score a goal on each occasion, while the Footscray could only procure behinds. The score therefore, at half time was:—Hotham 3 goals and Footscray 3 behinds. The play on resuming improved considerably and became faster. Hotham were the first to score again, a behind being scored by Peters. A. Anderson and Roberts relieved their goal and took the ball along the northern wing. Footscray afterwards procured it and scored 2 behinds. H. Todd and Houston took it back, and Tankard kicked fourth goal for Hotham with a running kick, the ball lobbing through without being touched. On the kick off, Hotham once more attacked their opponents' goal, but by the good play of M'Kinley danger was averted and the ball went on to the north wing, where A. Anderson procured and sent it well forward. Some scrimmaging took place in front of the Hotham posts, and Bremner picked up the ball and scored first goal for Footscray. Three-quarter time was then called, the score being Hotham 4 goals 1 behind, and Footscray 1 goal 5 behinds. During the last portion of the game Footscray had considerably the best of the play. They scored three behinds—the ball on one occasion hitting the goal post—and kept the play near their opponents' posts for nearly the whole of the quarter. Just before time was called Roberts procured a mark in front, and scored second goal for Footscray. The final scores were:—Hotham, 4 goals 1 behind; Footscray, 2 goals 5 behinds. Hotham's best representatives were Houston, H. Todd, Sykes, Morris, Tankard, Alcock, and Peters, while A. Anderson, Carlton, Roberts, Fife, Coppstone, and Cameron played best for Footscray. Mr. R. Woods acted as centre, umpire, and gave satisfaction.

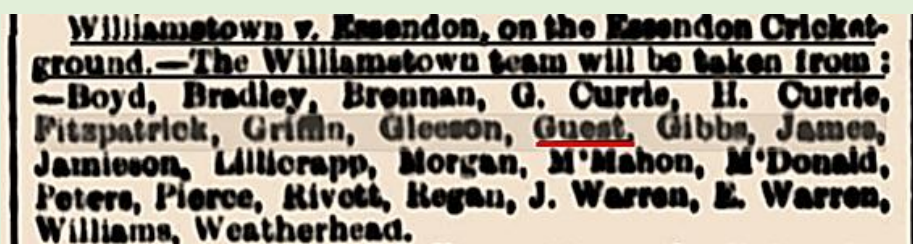
¹⁸² FOOTBALL, Hotham v Footscray, Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria, Saturday 9th October 1886, Page 3.

1887

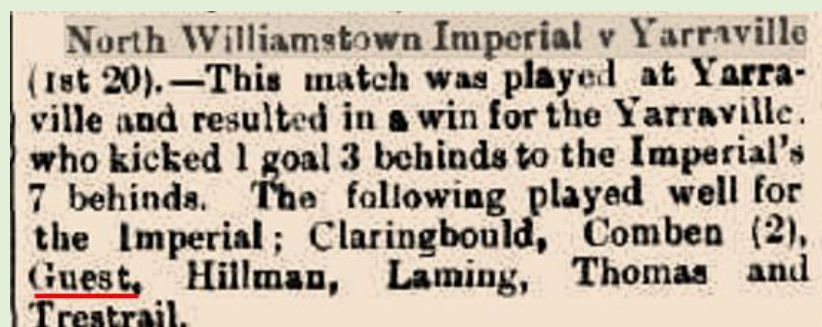
On Saturday the 30th April at Hotham Recreational Reserve (Arden Street Oval) Hotham took on 23 players from the junior Club Royal Park. Picked to play for Hotham that day was: Abraham, Bean, Bradley, Carlton, Gilbern, Gooley, Horrocks, Houston, Lee, Lang, McIntosh, Morris, McInerney, Johnson, Newham, Newing, Paria, Sykes,, Tobin, Todd and Wallace: ¹⁸³



That same day, Will and Jack's youngest surviving brother Archie, after leaving North at the end of season 1886 lined up for Williamstown's first-20 team against Essendon at the Essendon Cricket Ground on Saturday 30th April 1887: ¹⁸⁴



Under arrangement with Williamstown, when not picked to play for the first-20 team Archie Guest played for North Williamstown Imperial Football Club. This arrangement is recorded below in a game Archie played against Yarraville's first-20: ^{185 186}



¹⁸³ FOOTBALL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 30th April 1887, Page 10.

¹⁸⁴ FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN v ESSENDON, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 30th April 1887, Page 12.

¹⁸⁵ FOOTBALL, Williamstown Advertiser Victoria, Saturday 21st May 1887, Page 2.

¹⁸⁶ This match substituted as a reserved game for Archie Guest for Williamstown Football Club.

Two weeks later Archie is picked to play for North Williamstown Imperial (Junior) Football Club lining up to against Rose of Melbourne.¹⁸⁷

North Williamstown Imperial v Rose of Melbourne.—Imperials team will be chosen from the following, who are requested to meet at Spencer Street Station not later than 2.30 p.m. :—Armstrong, Brown, Comben (2), Chester, Christison, Claringbold (2), Duckworth, Draper, Fowler, Guest, Hillman (2), Jones, Kenny (capt.), Leibert (2), Laming, Maynard, Regan, Richie, Trotter, Worrall and West.

The relationship between Williamstown Football Club and North Williamstown Imperial Football Club developed from 1886 to 1993, culminating in William's takeover of the North Williamstown Imperial FC.

It appears to be standard practice for Williamstown to forge connections with junior clubs by loaning their players to these if they are not selected for Williamstown's first team, ultimately leading to the integration of the junior club into the Williamstown Football Club:¹⁸⁸

I may give the names of clubs which have merged themselves into the now destitute Williamstown Football Club. They were :—Battery United, Oriental, old North Williamstown, Williamstown Juniors (1st and 2nd), Osborne (1st and 2nd), South Williamstown, Excelsior, Newport, Imperial, Red Rose, North Williamstown Imperial, Strand Towers and Seaside. Here 300 players and the pick of the district were at times available, but where are they now?—Yours, &c.
C. E. OGDEN,
Hon. Sec. North Williamstown F. C.
March 8th, 1893.

¹⁸⁷ TO-DAY'S MATCHES, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 4th June 1887, Page 2.

¹⁸⁸ THE WILLIAMSTOWN and NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 11th March 1893, 2.

The system probably worked well for Archie and no later than Saturday 20th August 1887 he was again picked to play for Williamstown first-20 against South Melbourne at Gardens Reserve Williamstown:^{189 190}

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

Williamstown v. South Melbourne. To be played at Williamstown. Meet at Garden's Reserve not later than 2.30 p.m.

Team :—Boyd, Brennan, Bullock, Cooper, Currie H. (Vice-capt.), Currie G., Ellis, Fitzpatrick, Gibbs, Griffin, Guest, Henderson, James, M'Donald (Capt.), Morgan, Peters, Pierce, Reid, Saul, Smith, Tankard, Warren, Williams.

Consulted was the Carlton Football Club's online heritage site, Blueseum which published the 1887 season results for the first-20 VFA competition, which Carlton were the leading club. Both Williamstown and Hotham football clubs, involving Guest family members that year, performed in the top half of clubs. Williamstown fared a little better than North with the Blueseum published table below taken as evidence. This was to be Carlton's last premiership until the Jack Worrall coached side of 1906:

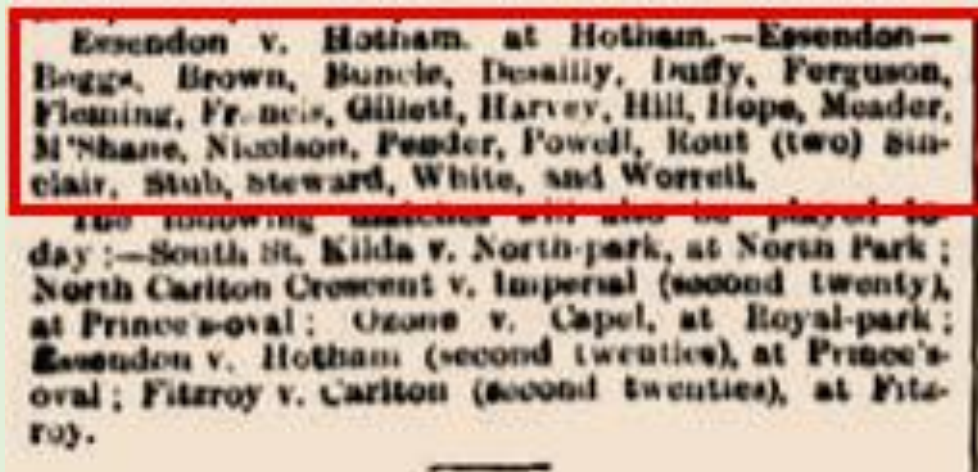
1887 Ladder						
Pos	Team	Played	Wins	Losses	Draws	Goals For Goals Against
1	Carlton	25	20	2	3	156 73
2	Geelong	23	18	2	3	123 63
3	South Melbourne	20	12	4	4	103 54
4	Fitzroy	22	12	5	5	78 61
5	Port Melbourne	22	14	6	2	107 55
6	Williamstown	20	9	8	3	67 76
7	Richmond	20	8	8	4	66 73
8	Hotham	21	7	10	4	84 92
9	Essendon	19	7	9	3	62 71
10	Melbourne	20	7	11	2	69 87
11	Prehran	18	5	11	2	69 75
12	St.Kilda	19	4	14	1	56 106
13	University	19	4	15	0	45 113
14	South Williamstown	18	3	13	2	35 78
15	Footscray	14	2	10	2	25 47
16	Ballarat	15	6	7	2	66 48
17	South Ballarat	12	4	3	5	55 45
18	Ballarat Imperials	14	6	5	3	53 51

Clubs had to play a minimum of 18 matches to qualify for the V.F.A. Premiership.

¹⁸⁹ FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN V SOUTH MELBOURNE, Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria, Saturday 20th August 1887, Page 2.

¹⁹⁰ Four ex-North Melbourne players Guest (one of three brothers), Peters, Tankard and Williams (one of two brothers) all playing with Williamstown Football Club against South Melbourne.

Shown below is Alfred's Buncle's brother, found lining up against his old club after switching to play for Essendon in 1887. Perhaps like friend Archie Guest, a change was necessary to break into the top level of VFA football. Also slated to play Essendon FC on Saturday the 13th August 1887 is Hotham's second-20 team. The latter match at Princes Park and the former at Arden Street:¹⁹¹



Archie's brother Jack continued to coach the North Melbourne second-20 team for the 1888 season, whilst older brother Will Guest probably played his last season and perhaps an occasional player in his brother's second-20 side.

The following years 1888, Will begins his second football career as a first-20 goal umpire with the VFA. Whilst the second-20 side Jack Guest (1862-1922), coached won its second premiership in a row in 1887, Hotham's first-20 had a mediocre year.

¹⁹¹ FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th August 1887, Page 11.

1888

Jack Guest's recognition as North's first back-to-back premierships coach

The newspaper article below of 1888 shows him receiving from his players at the Club's annual general a framed photograph of his back-to-back premierships winning team and being re-appointed for the 1888 VFA Season: ¹⁹²

...ary's illness, for which your committee thanks him warmly. Your second twenty again achieved the proud position of premiers, and have to be congratulated on the unselfish manner in which they played together, showing that united is far superior to individual effort. Trophies have been awarded to Messrs. Houston, Carroll, H. Todd, William Johnston, Sykes, Gooley, Abrahams, and Morris and Allesio, for playing most matches. In conclusion, your committee wish you every success in coming season, and trust you will have a better one financially and in the football field.—MARK J EVANS, Chairman; J. Moxon, Hon. Secretary.

...ward, regular attendance, silver watch, (the gift of Mr. M. Evans); Carroll, biscuit barrel; Gooley, locket—club prize. Mr. Guest, the secretary of the second 20, was presented with the photos of the team, suitably framed, and, in returning thanks, said that the 2nd 20 North Melbourne had been the premier 2nd 20 for two years. Mr. Kilia presented the chairman with a similar present, and Mr. Evans suitably responded. Mr. Guest was then re-elected secretary to the 2nd 20. Mr. Knight said that he would like to

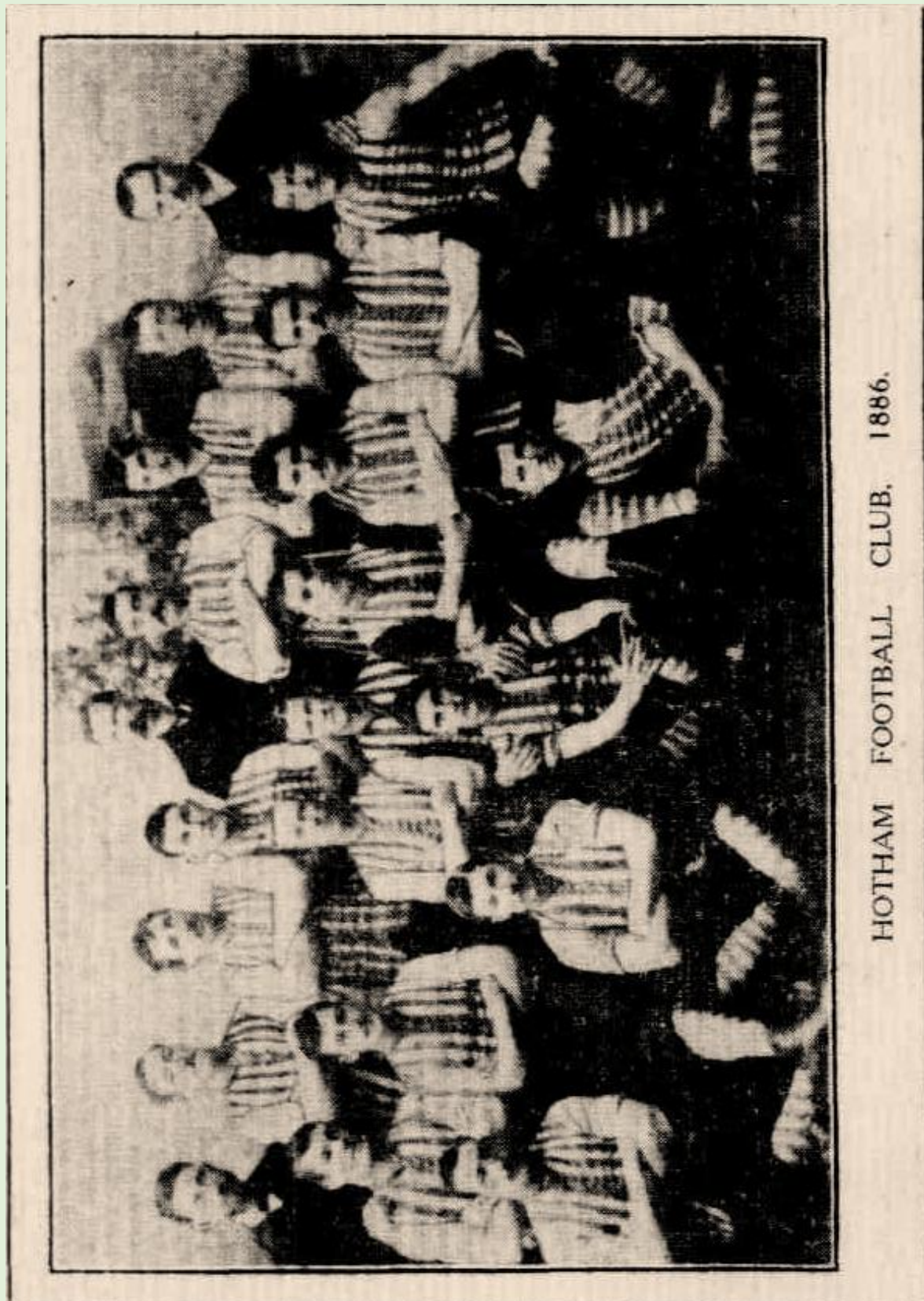
Submitted below is a photograph of the author's granduncle Jack Guest (1862-1922), born John Henry Guest who was North Melbourne Cricket Club Secretary for the North Melbourne clubs post-reunification year 1883 and 1884, North Melbourne player and premierships coach of the second-20 in 1886/7 and 1887: ¹⁹³



¹⁹² FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Saturday 31st March 1888, Page 3, North Melbourne Football Club, Mr Guest, Secretary of the Second Twenty, premiers two years running.

¹⁹³ Refer also, The History of the North Melbourne Football Club, Footy Talk Online. <https://footytalk.com.au/the-history-of-the-north-melbourne-football-club/>.

Presumptive positive is a copy of the photograph of the second-20 teams Jack Guest (1862-1922) coached to its first of two back-to-back premierships in 1886. Jack is pictured in the suit back row centre. Younger and smaller brother Archie Guest (1866-1932) aged 20 years is the younger man to the immediate left of Jack. Their elder brother Will is found in the suit and tie - as is brother Jack – but located back row far right:



Shown below is Archie Guest¹⁹⁴ found to have held his place in the first-20 team for Williamstown Football Club competing in Australia's elite VFA competition in 1888. Due to patchy records recovery for Williamstown Football Club's games across newspaper for this period, uncertain is whether he was a week-in-week regular:



Although most of the player records for the Williamstown Football Club from 1887 to 1892 are missing, the minimum number of games attributed to him, along with the potential for more matches to be added in the future, allows us to recognise him as one of the club's pioneering players. The 19 matches he is recorded with Williamstown in the VFA first-20 competition attests to his athletic ability as an Australian rule's footballer, which is true also for him and for his brothers, Jack and Will Guest, who all played for North Melbourne Football Club, also known as Hotham.^{195 196}

On the 15th May 1888 Will Guest¹⁹⁷ is further confirmed is officiating at one of his early first-20 VFA matches as a goal umpire. That day he journeyed to Williamstown to officiate in the Williamstown clash against Essendon:¹⁹⁸



¹⁹⁴ Due to late marriages, the genealogical connection between Archie's son Jack and his son, the current author, remains rare. As of 2023, despite being only one generation apart from his grandfather born in 1866, there exists unusually a 157-year span between the grandfather and grandson.

¹⁹⁵ FOOTBALL, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 21st April 1888, Page 3.

¹⁹⁶ Williamstown player Munro is suspected to be the ex-North Melbourne [Hotham] player Munro who disappeared from the NMFC record after season 1884.

¹⁹⁷ FLEMINGTON & KENSINGTON FIRE BRIGADES, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 21st January 1888, Page 2 - Will Guest is found in his volunteer roles as a firefighter.

¹⁹⁸ FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN v ESSENDON, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 15th May 1888, Page 5.

For North Melbourne in 1888, The Argus informs that on Saturday the 21st July 1888, North encountered South Melbourne Football Club on South's ground. That day they selected the following players to represent North: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Howie, Johnston, Rimes, Rooke, Rushford, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Williams, Allen, and Bradley:¹⁹⁹

North Melbourne v. South Melbourne, at South Melbourne.—North Melbourne team—Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Howie, Johnston, Rimes, Rooke, Rushford, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Williams, Allen, Bradley. South Melbourne team—Burns, Brown, Clarke, Clinton, Doran, Ellis, Elms, Grave, Gibson, Hill, Kerr, M'Kay, M'Shane, O'Meara, Purdy, Peters, Robinson, Reid, Spence, Wyatt, Young.

North Melbourne played South Melbourne at South Melbourne on the 29th September 1888 and picked to play that day for North were: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Johnston, Rooke, Rushford, Ryan, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, and Williams. Emergencies were Howie and White:²⁰⁰

FOOTBALL.
The South Melbourne and North Melbourne clubs meet this afternoon on the ground of the latter. The South Melbourne team will be chosen from—Burns, Brown, Clarke, Clinton, Doran, Ellis, Elms, Grave, Hill, Kerr, M'Kay, M'Shane, M'Donald, O'Meara, Purdy, Peters, Robinson, Reid, Spence, Wyatt and Young. North Melbourne will be represented by—Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Johnston, Rooke, Rushford, Ryan, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, and Williams. Emergencies Howie, White.

¹⁹⁹ FOOTBALL SOUTH MELBOURNE v NORTH MELBOURNE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 21st July 1888, Page 12.

²⁰⁰ FOOTBALL SOUTH MELBOURNE v NORTH MELBOURNE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th September 1888, Page 20.

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